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HISTORY  
: OF :  
JACKSON COUNTY

ALA

BY

JOHN ROBERT KENNAMER



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*Jackson County Court House, Scottsboro, Alabama.*



## P R E F A C E

*While many are more capable than I am of writing the History of Jackson County, I yield to none in loyal devotion to her people and native home. I shall esteem it the greatest satisfaction, if I can preserve a true and faithful record of the life, characteristics and mode of living of those who have gone on before in the race of life. I have sought facts for a correct history of the County wherever I could find them. If it should be found by the reader, that any of my statements are incorrect, let me say in advance, that when I penned those statements I believed them to be true. I have been collecting oral information for this work for twelve years, besides reading many histories and searching newspaper files and cemetery records.*

*Would it not be a sad thought that our ancestors, the pioneers in creating this County, should be entirely forgotten, or should we let die the memory of their heroic service? Who would want to live only in the fickle and fading memories of the fleeting present?*

*It is with a profound feeling of gratitude the author acknowledges the splendid aid given in preparing this work by every one. He hereby acknowledges the source for much of the material used: Thomas M. Owen's History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography, in four volumes; The Archives and History Department, Montgomery, Ala.; History of Alabama by Miller; History of Alabama by Albert James Pickett, Edition 1896, by Robert C. Randolph; The Formative Period in Alabama, 1815-1828 by Thomas Perkins Abernethy; Early History of Huntsville, Ala., 1804-1870 by Edward Chambers Betts; The*

*Upper Tennessee by T. J. Campbell, 1932; Oliver D. Street, Guntersville, Ala.; Peter A. Brannon, Montgomery, Ala.; Mrs. Leona Woodall Merritt, Clarendon, Ark.; Elder W. W. Thompson, Huntland, Tenn., and Many others.*

*The author is grateful to Miss Cora Michæls for correcting his manuscript.*

*To lovers of home and this heaven-blest county this little volume is sent forth to the reading public.*

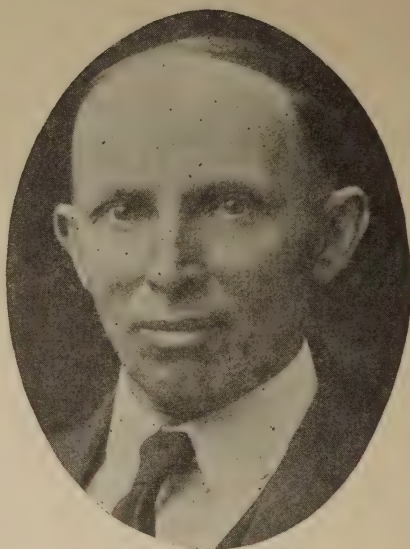
JOHN R. KENNAMER.

WOODVILLE, ALABAMA,

APRIL 1, 1935.

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JOHN ROBERT KENNAMER

Woodville, Alabama



## CHAPTER I.

### The Indians In Jackson County

THE Indians found here when the first white man visited this land were the Cherokees, who occupied the northern part of Georgia, eastern Tennessee, the western Carolinas and the northeastern corner of Alabama. They were of a reddish or cinnamon brown complexion. The men were rather tall, well muscled, of an athletic build, stood erect and moved gracefully; and were often proud or arrogant while in war or the chase. The women were smaller and for the most part, handsome. Their dress consisted of a clout worn about the waist, a mantle made of the inner bark of trees or a species of flax worn as a shawl across the shoulders. Many wore moccasins on their feet, made of dressed deerskins. All were fond of ornaments, and often painted their faces in bright colors. They dressed their heads with feathers of the eagle and other birds.

The Chickasaws, a fierce war-like tribe of Indians occupied the northwestern part of Alabama; the Creeks held the eastern part of the State south of the Cherokees.

As the great Tennessee Valley had no large Indian towns, it seemed to be held for a long time as a great hunting ground for different tribes. There are evidences, which show that the Shawnee Indians once occupied this territory from about 1660 to 1721. We find in this county the Shawnee custom of many box-burials or burials in stone graves. In Kennamer Cove, which was for seventeen years a part of Jackson County, is an Indian mound with graves lined with stone.

No one knows how many fierce battles the Cherokees fought with the Chickasaws, Shawnees and the Creeks for possession of this happy hunting ground.

One of the most important engagements was fought on Mountain Creek near Trenton, Ga., about 1755, with the Creeks. At first the Cherokees were nearly overwhelmed, but they rallied and completely routed the Creeks. A treaty was signed in 1759 with the Creeks and the latter withdrew from this territory and remained friendly until 1813. At this time the Cherokees were on friendly terms with the United States government and furnished 500 warriors to General Jackson at the battles of Talladega and Horse Shoe, in the Creek war.

The Cherokee men were indolent, though fond of dancing and ball-playing, and when not engaged in war, they spent much time in hunting and fishing, while the women did most of the work. The fertile soil made the raising of corn, peas, beans, squashes and pumpkins not so difficult. Their tools used in farming were indeed very crude, a kind of hoe made of fishbone, wood or stone.

Corn was pounded in mortars with a pestle or parched before eating.

The men were experts in the use of the bow and arrow, the spear, the tomahawk and the gun. In war they marched single file and the hind warrior would obliterate their tracks to conceal their movement or number. It is remarkable how they endured fatigue and thirst on their long marches in the chase or war without a murmur.

They had no written language until Sequaya, a half-breed Indian, invented the Cherokee alphabet, which he announced to a gathering of the chief men at Sauta, a small village in this county.

## CHEROKEE TOWNS.

These towns as listed by Mr. O. D. Street (*See Alabama Historical Society, Vol. 4*) are: "The Five Lower Towns on the Tennessee," named in their order, Running Water, Nickajack, Lookout Mountain Town, Long Island Town, and Crow Town." "The first two were just within the limits of the present State of Tennessee on the south side of the river a few miles below Chattanooga; the third was where Trenton, Georgia, now stands; Long Island Town was on the island in the Tennessee River at Bridgeport, Alabama; Crow Town, the largest, was in the present Jackson County, Ala., on Crow Creek, and about one-half mile from its confluence with the Tennessee." "Long Island and Crow Town were the first Cherokee settlements established within historic times west of the height of Cumberland and Sand mountains, and this took place as we have seen about 1782." There are evidences of an Indian village, at an early date, on Dry Creek in Paint Rock valley. Many stone implements as, spear-heads, flint arrow-points, tomahawks, mortars, pestles, pieces of broken pottery vessels are to be found there.

## INDIAN MOUNDS.

As reported by Mr. James Mooney,— *Bureau of Ethnology*—"We find a Mound on the west bank of Tennessee River, one mile above Bridgeport, and three small mounds on the west bank of Tennessee River, three miles below Bridgeport. Two mounds on west bank of Tennessee River, just above Widow's Creek. One on the west bank of Tennessee River, due east of Stevenson, another one on east bank of Tennessee River, nearly opposite last, below the mouth of Morgan's Creek. Three small mounds on the west bank of Tennessee River, at Sublett's ferry, near Old Bellefonte."

There are other mounds in the county. A mound covering more than one-half acre is in Kennamer Cove. In this mound there are many graves of Indians, broken pieces of pottery, arrow-heads and other relics. This mound has been in cultivation a hundred years. Fifteen years ago, Omer A. Kennamer plowed up the skeleton of a person who had been buried more than eighty-five years.

#### INDIAN TRAILS.

There were two or three Indian trails that passed through the territory, which later became Jackson County. The Creeks, who lived in east central Alabama, made long incursions to the Tennessee, Cumberland and Ohio valleys on their hunting expeditions, crossed the Tennessee River some two miles below Guntersville at the "Shoals", where the river was fordable during a part of the year, and became known as the "Lower Creek Crossing." This Creek path trail divided. One branch passed through Madison County and the other passed up the valley to Sauta and thence across Cumberland Mountain. There was a crossing just below Larkin's Landing. On the south bank of the river was a village named "Coosada", a mixed settlement of Creeks and Cherokees. Another important trail crossed the river at Long Island, near Bridgeport.

These Indian trails were the paths of the white explorers, and these followed in general the ridges, which were later used in laying out the roads for the white settler.



## CHAPTER II.

### The Early Pioneer

No one can tell now what paleface first traveled this part of the world as it lay in its primitive wilds. Was he a marauding culprit banished by crimes he had committed? Or was he perhaps a land speculator seeking to make a fortune on choice bodies of land? Or was he spying out the land to locate and make his home? Or was he only a hunter, led on by his keen relish of killing the massive bear, agile panther, or sylph-like deer? Or was he the more humble, but cautious trapper seeking to make his fortune by ensnaring the beaver, otter, mink and coon to get their furs?

None of these has left us a record who was first to visit this land. It is said David Crockett left his name on a tree in upper Paint Rock valley, but he has left no record of his impression as he stood upon some lofty hill-top in the wilds that later became Jackson County, and looked out over a virgin forest of magnificent trees, arbored over with a labyrinth of grapevines, or a wide expanse of waving tall grass or cane-brakes, through which marked the well beaten paths, traversed by the bear, panther, wolf and other wild game. What were the pioneer's thoughts, and why did he not leave a written record as he saw the startled deer, that meek denizen of the woods, bound high over some obstruction, glide swiftly out of view below the tangled vines from which darted the nimble squirrel to a place of safety upon the limb of a tree, where he chattered and barked defiance? What were his thoughts as, wending his way over the beautiful hills and valleys unmarred by the hand of civilized man, he beheld its

limpid waters kissing the sylvian shores bordered by cane-brakes, and upon whose waters bevvies of ducks, geese and other wild fowls were diving and circling in play? Or, again what were his thoughts as he stood on some sunny bank of a river, creek or lake, where floated near the surface countless numbers of fish?

Though we have no written description of these early pioneer scenes, we have some faint records preserved only in memory and brought down to us by tradition. The earliest white trappers and hunters to visit this territory would often build a hut for shelter and after a short time return laden with his furs and skins to the markets on the eastern coast. His only neighbor was the Cherokee Indian with whom he exchanged knives, guns and other articles for skins and furs.

The valleys of the Tennessee, Paint Rock and the low level lands lying along Crow, Mud and Sauta Creeks were covered with dense cane-brakes, brush-wood and briers matted together with vines; and lowering above all this were large oak, poplar, gum and other trees, with a lake or lagoon here and there.

The ridges and coves which were bordered by the Cumberland, Sand and Gunter's Mountain were fertile and had a luxuriant growth of cane and forest. The mountain tops were better suited for the early settler to make his home, or to live while hunting, with no undergrowth except tall grass, with trees far enough apart that one could drive a team and wagon for miles without a road. Deer were plentiful and turkeys as numerous as chickens are at the present time. One has described these mountains as follows: "The mountain air sighed through the tree-tops as pure and sweet as the breath of a maiden; squirrels gambled in the forest trees; turkeys gobbled and strutted on the mountains; eagles screamed from their lofty perch on towering cliffs; and doves cooed

their story of love on every hill and in every dale."

Such scenes were here to be found as the pioneer hunter, trapper or trader wended his way single-file along an Indian trail when the United States government acquired this land from the Indians on February 27, 1819.

T. J. Campbell, in "*The Upper Tennessee*," quoting Colonial Records, in which the statement of a British officer touring southern Indian tribes says, "that a white family emigrated in a flatboat from the Watauga settlements down the Tennessee, the Ohio, and the Mississippi to the Natches settlement in 1776."

Early in 1779, Colonel Evan Shelby transported troops down the Tennessee River en route to join George Rogers Clark in Kentucky and Illinois. Shelby had destroyed the towns and killed a number of the Chickamauga Indians, in the mountains west of the site of the present city of Chattanooga. The remnant of this tribe was in an ugly mood towards the whites, and when on March 8, 1780 Colonel Donelson's fleet of thirty boats, passed down the Tennessee River, led by the boat "Adventure," the Indians fired on the whites, killing all on the rear boat. This company of emigrants came from Virginia, North Carolina and East Tennessee and were going to settle at Nashville, Natches and in Illinois.

These different passings down the Tennessee River occurred during the Revolutionary war. So the beauty and desirable nature of this place were seen at an early date.

John Ross, the half-breed Indian chief, of Chattanooga, made a trip by keel-boat to and from the Indian Territory in 1812, as an agent of the U. S. government. Supplies of food for men and horses were sent by boats from East Tennessee to General Jackson in the Creek war. The foregoing was the beginning of a great influx of people to organize this county.

### CHAPTER III.

## How The County Was Settled

GEORGIA, as early as 1783, claimed all the land south of latitude 35 degrees, or the southern boundary of the State of Tennessee, as far west as the Mississippi River, and made effort to plant a settlement and organize a county in the Great Bend in the Tennessee River in Alabama.

This claim was disputed by South Carolina, who claimed a strip twelve miles wide just south of the Tennessee state line, as far west as the Mississippi River, by virtue of the Colonial charter which defined her limits.

This was the condition under which the first effort was made to settle the territory north of the Tennessee River in Alabama, which included the greater part of Jackson County.

A company was organized in 1783, by the following men: William Blount, his brothers, John and Thomas, Gen. Joseph Martin, Gen. Griffith Rutherford, Col. John Sevier, Gov. Richard Caswell, and Col. John Donelson, all of North Carolina. This Company was formed for the purpose of acquiring the title to all the lands lying in the present State of Alabama, north of the Tennessee River.

The company petitioned the Georgia Legislature to get the right to settle this land in Alabama. They claimed, to the Georgia Legislature, that they had already, "made a purchase of lands on the Tennessee." They gave the Cherokees, the real owners of this territory, a small quantity of merchandise for this vast tract of land.

The Georgia Legislature reported on February 20,



1784, to recommend, "that seven commissioners be appointed and vested with powers necessary to ascertain the quantity and quality of this land, and that not more than one thousand acres be sold to any one person, and at a price of not less than twelve and one-half cents per acre." The seven commissioners appointed to survey and sell the land were: "Lachlin McIntosh, Jr., William Downes, Stephen Heard, John Morrell, all of Georgia, and John Donelson, Joseph Martin and John Sevier, all of North Carolina."

This was the earliest effort by an English speaking people, in the present State of Alabama, to erect a new county and set up a government. Because Morrell and McIntosh failed to act, Thomas Carr was appointed and served with the other members of the Board. In October of 1785, Sevier, Downes, Carr, and Donelson, engaged about eighty men to join them; they floated down the Tennessee River to a spot, probably Long Island Town, near the town of Bridgeport, Alabama, and opened a land office for the sale of the lands in the "Great Bend".

Some of the men who came with the commissioners were: Zachariah Cox, George Dardin, Sr., George Dardin, Jr., George Thomas, James Callahan, James Scott, William Nelson, Joseph McConnell, Charles Robertson, Alexander Kelly, John Woods, Alexander Cunningham, William Fisher, Abraham Utler, John Corvin, David Mitchell and James M. Lewis.

They formally organized a County, named it Houston, and elected Valentine Sevier, Jr., as Representative in Georgia Legislature. He was the first person chosen to represent any part of the State of Alabama. They next proceeded to survey lands near the mouth of the Elk River.

The Indians, appearing hostile, caused the Board

to adjourn and return home, after two weeks stay. On his way home, Col. Donelson was killed by the Indians, and unfortunately, the first effort to plant a colony in the Tennessee valley failed. The Georgia Legislature refused to receive Valentine Sevier, Jr., as a representative. On August 7, 1786, a bill, to legally establish and organize Houston County, was defeated by a vote of 26 to 23. The Board never met again and this ended the enterprise.

A new Company was organized in 1789, called the "Tennessee Land Company," by Zachariah Cox, of South Carolina, and Mathias Maher and others. They purchased 3,500,000 acres from Georgia, paying less than two cents per acre. This tract embraced the northern counties of Alabama. Cox, with forty others, proceeded to the Muscle Shoals and built a blockhouse and other defense works, against the warning of the United States and the objections of the Indians. Soon the Cherokee chief, Glass, appeared with a body of Indians and threatened them with death, if they remained. Cox and his party were allowed to withdraw without injury. The Indians destroyed their works, and this ended the second attempt to settle the Tennessee valley, of which Jackson County was a part.

Georgia surrendered to United States all her claims to land in this part of the world, April 24, 1802.

Oliver D. Street, in a paper read before the Tennessee Valley Historical Society, quoting information from a census made in 1809, in Madison County, by Thomas Freeman, U. S. Surveyor for the District, says, that others had "extended their settlements over the Indian boundary up in the coves of the mountains on the Cherokee." These coves were in the present Jackson County.

## CHAPTER IV.

### Life In The Early Days

THE routes traveled by the early settlers in coming to Jackson County have not been told in detail, nor just what means used in travel have not been described fully. It is an interesting study to learn whence the various immigrants came into the county; by what routes they came; and in what part of the county they settled. It is fairly settled that a vast majority came from Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Georgia, and Kentucky. There was a road passed southwestward through the Valley of Virginia, then down the Holston River to Knoxville. From Knoxville one part of the highway passed westward to Nashville, but a spur was extended southward to Huntsville, which soon became an important route of travel. Those immigrants from North and South Carolina passed through Saluda Gap in the Blue Ridge where it borders North and South Carolina, then to Ashville, and along the course of the French Broad to Knoxville, and thence to Jackson County, either by land or by float-boat down the Tennessee River. Many settlers first came to Madison County, Alabama, and then moved to this county. Upper Paint Rock valley was settled largely by people from Franklin, Warren and other Tennessee counties. A large majority came in covered wagons, or on pack-horses, and camped out on the way, bringing a few necessary household goods. Some of the wealthier ones brought herds of cattle and hogs. Elder John Smith brought with him from Kentucky to Madison County, Alabama, in 1814, some eighty-five head of hogs and

fifty head of cattle. About this date Paint Rock Valley was getting her first settlers. Captain James Doran settled in Doran's Cove; Henry Derrick came to Old Woodville in 1815, from East Tennessee; Hans Kennamer and sons, Jacob, Samuel, Stephen and Abram, were living in Kennamer Cove. John Gross and family came down the Tennessee River in 1817. Other parts of the county were receiving their first immigrants.

The high price of cotton in 1817-18, caused a great influx of immigrants to the Tennessee Valley, and the price of land rose to higher levels than ever known before. The small farmer settled back on the mountains and in the hill section of the county. He had come in search of economic freedom and more liberty of life in the forest. He loved his rifle and the pursuit of the game in the woods. He built his house of logs, cleared his corn patches and raised his hogs and cattle on the range. The ring of the axe in the forest was a familiar sound among the pioneers, and to clear the land was a great task. The usual mode was to "belt" or deaden all the timber save the smaller saplings, and commence cultivating before the roots and small stumps were out of the way. This "New" ground was planted in corn. The soil was very rich, and required but little cultivation to produce a good crop.

When the ear had nearly matured, the blades were stripped off, cured, tied in bundles and stacked around a pole in the field. In the fall when the corn had been gathered, the neighbors were invited in to shuck it. A corn-shucking was an event of next importance to a wedding, and was usually well attended, especially if pretty girls were to be present.

The wealthier class settled down on land better suited to raising cotton. It was then, as it is today, the money crop. Cotton gins having been lately



brought in, made the raising of the staple more profitable. Slave labor was in demand and was used extensively. However, the great bulk of the county was uncultivated and lay wild in native forest. It was a county of springs. No purer water ever gushed from under hill or mountain in any land, and rippled cheerily on toward the larger streams all the year around.

One has said: "The people as a rule were healthy, but generally poor. They were simple in customs, but honest of heart."

Many small tan-yards were established to tan hides into leather. Each neighborhood had a shoe-cobbler to make shoes for the family. Every farm had a spinning wheel and a hand-loom to make cloth for use of the family. Some of the more aristocratic were able to buy a dress of fine cotton or silk for Sunday wear.

The hardware stock of a merchant consisted, in most part, of iron and steel bars, for the use of the blacksmith. There were good blacksmiths and wood-workers in every community, who made wagons, horseshoes, nails, axes, plow-stocks and other tools. We cast no reflection upon the early settlers for their way of farming. They had no labor-saving machinery or improved agricultural implements. They had nothing but the old-fashioned bar-shear and shovel-plow and home made eye-hoe and wooden-tooth harrow. The grain was cut with a home made cradle. Not much wheat was raised because there were no mills near to grind it. Each family had an ash-hopper in the yard and made all the soap used.

The household utensils in the best of homes consisted chiefly of dishes, plates, knives, forks and spoons made of pewter,—a metal now never seen. The cooking was done in an open fireplace, as there were no cookstoves. A skillet for frying, an oven for baking and a pot for boiling constituted the ves-

sels in the best equipped home. From pothook and trammel hung the pot and kettle.

For a long time pine knots and tallow candles furnished the only light in the cabin after the sun had gone down. There were no friction matches to light a fire. If it had gone out over-night and the punk (sometimes called spunk), was damp and the spark made by the flint would not "catch", the only thing to do would be to go to the nearest neighbor to borrow a brand of fire.

Around the backwoodsman's cabin door the wolves howled and the panthers screamed at night. Young calves, lambs and pigs had to be penned every night to keep the wolves and panthers from killing them. Jacob Kennamer killed a panther in Kennamer Cove as late as eighteen forty. Whorry Whitaker killed a panther on Keel's Mountain even later than that date.

#### HUNTERS.

The pioneers first waged a yearly war on the forests, adding acre after acre to their cleared lands, which they often wore out in a few years by injurious cultivation. Even the most industrious farmer was not oblivious to the charms of a hunter's life. He would often take his rifle from its rack, which was over the door or the head of his bed, at early dawn, and ere breakfast time return with a turkey or deer or both, to regale his family or neighbors. When autumn came and the crop all gathered it was not unusual to lay up a store of venison to supplement the wild hog meat that he had killed in the woods for the ensuing year. Many hogs were raised in the woods and often went wild. The owner would take his gun and pack of dogs, which was usually four or five, and kill enough hogs to supply his table for the season. He often took along a large needle and thread to sew up any unfortunate dog that might be

cut by the tusk of some aged hog. A fresh bear track produced as much excitement in the neighborhood as did the cry or alarm of Indians. The plow and hoe were laid down and the gun shouldered by every one, and the chase pursued until bruin was slain, his carcass divided and his skin cast lots for.

The last bear killed here, so far as the writer has been able to learn, was in November, 1851. The chase was begun on the side of Gunter's Mountain near the Jackson-Marshall county line and was finally ended on the slope of the same mountain near the D. A. R. School. Pleas Woodall made the last shot. My father and mother had bear meat for their infare dinner, as father was in this chase.

#### SOCIAL GATHERINGS.

These early settlers were by no means selfish. Since their nearest neighbor often lived quite a distance away, they were fond of social meetings and amusements. Visitings between families, quiltings, log-rollings, wood-choppings, cotton-pickings, corn-shuckings, and shooting-matches, were great sources of pleasure. A wedding in any community was an event of great importance. The infare dinner at the home of the bridegroom's parents always brought forth the best of eats and often music and dancing.

Soon the young couple began housekeeping not far away from their parents, in a new log house, usually built by the help of the men of the neighborhood. This house had a roof made of long boards held in place by long poles. The chimney was made of sticks and clay mud above the stone fireplace. The floor was either dirt or puncheons split out and hewed on one side. The cracks in the wall were chinked with pieces of wood six or eight inches long, one inch thick and four or five inches wide, daubed with home-made lime and clay dirt. The furniture was very simple and cheap. It consisted of a home-

made table, two or three chairs or stools, and a bedstead often made of two forked sticks as posts, fastened in large auger holes in the wall by rails. All pails, tubs and churns were made of red cedar. A gourd served as a dipper, also as a vessel for lard and other things.

The father of the bridegroom gave a horse, a hog for meat, and a load of corn; the mother of the bride gave a milk cow, a feather bed, a few chickens, and thus the young married couple began life with high hopes and bright visions of success.

#### SPORTS AND SOCIAL GATHERINGS.

Among the men horse-racing was a favorite sport, and racetracks were established at Claysville, one just west of Larkinsville, and at other places in the county. These races were largely attended and often created much interest and excitement among horsemen. It was as great an honor to ride a winning horse in these races as to be a hero in a football game now.

Drinking was prevalent among nearly all classes, and "social treating" was well nigh universal, though many persons prided themselves on knowing how much to use without getting drunk. It was no more unusual for a planter to have his barrel of liquor put away in his smokehouse than it is now for the farmer to have his barrel of sorghum molasses. There was no law then against keeping liquor.

The barbecue and public speakings were part of every political campaign. The people were friendly toward their neighbors and hospitable toward strangers, made an honest living and reared their families close to nature.



## CHAPTER V.

# Jackson County Organized

### ITS ORIGIN AND NAME.

JACKSON COUNTY was created by an Act of the State Legislature on December 13, 1819, then in session in Huntsville, Alabama, and was named in honor of General Andrew Jackson. He was then visiting in Huntsville and racing "his mettled steeds" at the Old Green Bottom Race Track, four miles north of the city—an amusement indulged in by the highest classes. On March 3, 1817—two days after Congress had admitted Mississippi as a State in the Union,—the Territory of Alabama was organized.

All that part north of the Tennessee River, east of Madison County as then existed was ceded to the national government by the Cherokee Indians on February 27, 1819.

Congress by resolution on March 2, 1819, authorized the Alabama Territory to form a State, and a Constitution convention met in July in Huntsville and made our first organic law in record time. A Governor, William Wyatt Bibb, and a Legislature were elected and met in Huntsville on the 25th day of October, 1819—this being the fourth Monday—proceeded to organize a State government. On December 13, 1819, just four days before the Legislature adjourned, seven new counties were added to the twenty-two counties represented in this Legislature. One of these seven counties was Jackson. The next day, December 14, 1819, Alabama was admitted as a State in the Union.

### BOUNDARIES.

The original boundaries of Jackson County as given in the statutes are as follows: "All that tract of

country lately obtained from the Cherokee nation of Indians, lying on the north side of the Tennessee River, south of the Tennessee State line, and east of the present Madison County line, and of the Flint River, after it has left Madison County."

The boundaries of this county have been changed six times since its organization. The temporary seat of Justice was Sauta, which was some four miles south of Larkinsville, near the old Birdsong Spring or House of Happiness.

The Acts of 1821, Legislature that created Decatur County sets out in Section 5, "That Joseph Kirby, Benjamin Cloud, Thomas Russell, John Handcock, James Scruggs, John McVary, and McLand Cross be and they are hereby appointed commissioners to fix on a site for the temporary seat of Justice for the County of Jackson, in the same manner and under the same regulations, pointed out for fixing the temporary seat of Justice in the County of Decatur."

The commission selected Old Bellefonte to serve as temporary seat of Justice, until the Government lands within its limits should be surveyed and sold.

Section 4, of this same Act: "And be it further enacted, That there shall an election be held in the aforesaid county, on the second Monday in February, in the different precincts. The Legislature established the voting places as follows: Sauta Cave, Honey-Comb Springs, and Riley's on Mud Creek, for the election of a Clerk of the Circuit Court, and a Clerk of the County Court, and a Sheriff."

After the lands had been surveyed, on December seventeenth, 1827, the Southwest quarter, Section 17, Four, South Five, East was purchased for a county seat of Justice for Jackson County. Patent was given August 25, 1828. For some reason the county seat was not moved to this place. This land is just west of the Town of Larkinsville, beginning near the Mis-

sionary Baptist Church house and runs west on that fine tract of land owned by the late Judge A. H. Moody.

The commissioners appointed to purchase this county seat land were W. A. Davis, N. Hudson, C. L. Roach, R. B. Clayton and Joseph Kirby.

An Act was passed in the Legislature to vote on moving county seat from Bellefonte, approved December 17, 1859, and for nine years the question was before the people. Scottsboro became the county seat, the county records were moved from Bellefonte on Friday, November 13, 1868.

The northern part of Marshall County was a part of Jackson County until January 9, 1836, except for the brief time it was a part of Decatur County (1821-1825). All that portion of the present county of Jackson, south and east of the Tennessee River, was not added to this county until 1836; it being lately acquired from the Cherokee Indians by treaty signed at New Echota on December 29, 1835.

## CHAPTER VI.

### Decatur County

DECATUR COUNTY was created by an Act of the Legislature, December 13, 1821, out of Jackson County and the part of Madison County east of Flint River. Its area was described in the Act of the Legislature as follows: "All that tract of country lying west of Jackson County, south of the Tennessee State line, east of Madison County and north of the Tennessee River." All of the northern part of the present county of Marshall was included in Decatur County.

The boundary line between Decatur County and Jackson County was made a little more definite in December 1822, as follows: "Beginning at the mouth of Sauta Creek; thence up said creek to where the Winchester road crosses said Sauta Creek; thence to Jesse Thompson's; thence to Caswell Bibey's; thence from said Bibey's to the top of the mountain above William E. Haskin's, where the Winchester road descends Cumberland Mountains; thence to the leading point of the mountain between the mouth of Lick Fork and the mouth of Larkin's Fork of Paint Rock River; thence to the top of the mountain; thence a northwest course to the Tennessee state line."

The county was of irregular shape, being about 40 miles in length from north to south, and varying in width from three to twenty-five miles. It was further provided by the same Act, section 7, that Decatur County should "have criminal jurisdiction over all that tract of county within the limits of the Cherokee Nation of Indians, which lies west of Wills-town Valley and east of the road leading from Ditto's Landing to the town of Blountsville." Thus was in-



cluded in Decatur County the whole of the present Marshall County's territory, as well as a great part of DeKalb, Etowah and Blount counties. A commission was appointed by the Legislature to select a seat of justice, which consisted of the following persons: Robert McCamey, James G. Holmes, John Kennamer, John Snow, Alex W. Dulaney, David Boshart, Aaron Rice, William Leg, and Mr. Barnett (who lived near the mouth of Paint Rock River). This commission selected Woodville as the county seat, which continued as such until the county was abolished by the Legislature on December 28, 1825. The reason assigned was that it did not possess the territory as required by the Constitution. This part of the State was not surveyed until the year 1822 and the years immediately following. At this date not more than one-half of the thirty-two counties of the state had been surveyed. Heseekiah Bayles, a Revolutionary soldier from Virginia, who had lived a short time in Madison County, was its first County Court Judge, having been elected by the Legislature.

Section 4, of the Act approved December 13, 1821, provided: "And be it further enacted, That there shall an election be held in the aforesaid county, on the Second Monday in February in the different precincts, for the election of a Clerk of the Circuit Court, and a Clerk of the County Court, and a Sheriff." We have not been able to find who was elected to these offices.

Because the acts of the general assembly not having been received by the people of Decatur County, they held the election for the Clerks of the Circuit and County courts, and Sheriff, on the *first* Monday in February instead of the *second* Monday, as directed by the Act. This mistake was corrected on December 31, 1822, by the Legislature making the election and all acts of the officers legal. On the same day,

Decatur County was given another election precinct at the house of William Steadmore, on Paint Rock River, in said county.

In Volume One of Thomas M. Owen's History of Alabama, it is said that the "representatives in the Legislature were shown on the Senate and House journals as from Jackson and Decatur counties."

#### WHY NAMED DECATUR COUNTY.

Decatur County was named for Stephen Decatur, Jr., who was a famous naval hero. He brought great respect for this nation by the people of the world for his brilliant exploits in the war with Tripoli, during Thomas Jefferson's administration as President. It may be a coincident that Stephen Decatur lost his life in a duel, as Decatur County was killed by Act of the Legislature. All of the present county of Marshall north of the Tennessee River was given back to Jackson County, and all the western part of Decatur County east of Flint River and west of Jackson County was added to Madison County. This territory is often called "New Madison."

Old Woodville, the county seat was then a thriving village, with several stores, shops and an inn. It was nearly three-fourths of a mile east of the present town of Woodville.

## CHAPTER VII.

### Rivers and Roads

ALL races throughout every age have used their waterways for transportation. Being settled long before the day of railroads, Jackson County had recourse to the use of the Tennessee river and its tributaries for commercial and social intercourse with other parts of the country. The pioneers who adventured into the Tennessee Valley made its streams a leading feature of their economic life. One can easily see the difference between the present and a hundred years ago by noting the use of the navigable streams in shaping the history of a section.

They began the building of canoes and small rafts out of the trunks of trees for use on the streams, as soon as their log cabins were finished. Skiffs, ferry-boats, keel and flat-boats or barges were built and loaded with cotton and floated down the Paint Rock River and the larger creeks to the Tennessee River, and there reloaded on larger boats, which proceeded to the New Orleans market. Often times the smaller craft when discharged of their cotton, were reloaded with whisky, pork, flour and bar-iron for the use of the planter, and then poled or pushed back up the small stream to the starting point.

Those sections of the county not on or near these streams, hauled their cotton to some landing on the Tennessee River, as Bridgeport, Bellefonte, Larkin's Landing or other points, and stored it in a warehouse or loaded on a keel boat or flat-boat to await the freshet in the river, which usually came in the winter or early spring, in order that the cargoes might be floated over Muscle Shoals. Experienced pilots, who were registered, guided the boats over the rapids at

Muscle Shoals. After crossing the Shoals, these pilots would return to the starting point. The boat would proceed on its trip to New Orleans with its cargo of three or four hundred bales of cotton. The freight charges were \$4.00 or \$5.00 per bale. There were no other means to get the cotton to market until railroads were built many years later.

But difficult as it was to get cotton to market, it was still more difficult to bring back the supplies which were needed. There were several routes, though none easy, to get the necessary goods from market. One route during the eighteen-twenties and later was to float down the Ohio to the Cumberland, up the Cumberland to Nashville and across country from that place. Probably more goods were brought down the Tennessee River from Knoxville, and unloaded at the various river landings.

#### THE FIRST STEAM BOAT.

The coming of the steam boat changed radically the navigation on the Tennessee River. The *Atlas*, a flat-bottomed, light-draft steam boat, built at Wheeling, West Virginia, by Henry M. Shreve, steamed up the Tennessee River and anchored at Florence in the winter 1827-28. Captain S. D. Conner, and pilot Jack Clark awaited the coming of the high waters of the late winter to bring her over the Shoals on the way to Knoxville, some 400 miles up the river. It would be difficult to visualize all the happenings on this pioneering trip in the winter. No wood was cut to stoke the boilers, even settlers along the river, who could furnish food and water to sustain Captain Conner and his crew, were not numerous. This boat, as all other steam boats, had a cannon on it instead of a whistle to blow, when nearing a landing. What consternation among the negroes and illiterate whites as they heard the gun boom and saw the approaching boat as it pulled into shore to land.



The Atlas went to Knoxville and the captain and crew received an ovation by the people of the city. It soon returned to Decatur and was engaged in the river trade in Alabama for about two years, then sank on a bar at Whitesburg. It was raised and repaired and renamed the "Enterprise".

Steam-boat navigation grew and became quite an enterprise, until the building of railroads. The Civil War destroyed shipping on the river. However, after the war, river trade was revived and flourished until the eighties. Since then it has gradually declined.

The early pioneers in their march westward to seek a new home and a fortune, discovered Indian trails extending through the forests. They soon found them well laid out and the crossing places of streams were always selected with such care that from that day down to the present, little change has been made in road surveys by the white man. The building of a road consisted merely in widening an Indian trail or cutting a passage through the woods, laying a causeway of split logs with dirt thrown on top across a bog or marsh, or erecting ferries at river crossings. Bridges were seldom built across fordable streams.

As early as 1819, a road was opened from Huntsville, via Maysville, Old Woodville, Sauta to Bellefonte, a distance of forty-six miles, and known as the old stage road. This road passed through the southern part of the present town of Woodville at the point where the Woodville and Guntersville road crosses the new Lee Highway at the D. L. Kennamer filling station. It ran across the mountain near Aspel on the south side of July Mountain and Scottsboro. Three miles east of Woodville there was a causeway made of split cedar logs, which had been in the road 100 years, when removed a few years ago. We know that this road was extended across the

county by the Spring of 1820, for the first mail route passed through the county to East Tennessee. This mail route was established May 13, 1820.

It is very probable—as to this, however, the author cannot be certain from the data at hand—that President Monroe and two members of his Cabinet rode horseback over this road the last days of May, 1819. The President, General Gaines and lady, visited Brainerd Mission school for the Cherokee Indian—now a suburb of Chattanooga—on May 27, 1819. Leaving there on the 28th of May, they rode into Huntsville, Alabama, on June the 1st, 1819. E. C. Betts, author of “Early History of Huntsville, Alabama,” relates the foregoing incident as follows: “President Monroe visited the town in company with two Cabinet officers, on Tuesday, June 1st, 1819. Flurry and excitement greeted the presidential party as it rode into the town on horseback, unannounced.”

A road was opened from Gunter’s Landing up the Tennessee River valley to Sauta and Bellefonte. A road was made from Huntland, Tennessee, down Larkin’s Fork, Paint Rock valley, across Cumberland Mountain to Larkinsville and Larkin’s Landing on the Tennessee River. Another road from Winchester, Tennessee, to Bolivar was opened. This road crossed Cumberland Mountain, via Coon and Crow creeks valleys. Other roads were made after the Indians were removed across Sand Mountain.

A journey over the road of that day was a real adventure. The traveler had to content himself with log cabin inns. His vehicle would often be turned over and endanger his life or limb. Most traveling was done on horseback.

Local hauling was done with one to three yoke of oxen hitched to a home-made tar-pole, or wooden axle wagon. A little later iron-axle wagons came into use. Goods from a distance were hauled by horses or mules.

## CHAPTER VIII.

### Military Forces, 1819-1861

THE MILITIA is as old as the county itself. The first State Constitution empowered the General Assembly to provide by law for the organization and discipline of the militia. The first State Legislature set about at once the task of organizing the forces for the protection of its citizens. "All free white males between the age of eighteen and forty-five years" were liable for service, except judges, solicitors, clerks of courts, ministers of the gospel, postmasters, post-riders, and public ferrymen. A little later doctors, millers, cashiers of banks and a few other classes were exempt. "Any person who has conscientious scruples to bear arms shall not be compelled to do so, but shall pay an equivalent for personal service." The State was divided into four military divisions of nine brigades; Jackson and Madison counties composed the first brigade; each brigade consisted of not less than two, nor more than five regiments; each regiment shall be composed of two battalions; each battallion shall consist of not less than two, nor more than five companies; each company shall consist of not less than forty privates. Jackson County was regiment No. One.

In December 1822, the Militia of Jackson and Decatur counties, which composed the First and Thirty-fifth regiments, were formed into a separate brigade, called the Tenth brigade, and attached to the First division of the State Militia. The regiment or county muster was held once each year, usually in October, at the county seat. It was always a great day for the people. The company muster drill was four times a year, or every two months, except four months in

the winter season. The muster days were also recognized as a kind of tournament in which quarrels, insults, and other wrongs were to be settled, not with guns, pistols or knives, but by a game of fisticuffs, which game was governed by the rules of fair and honorable code. Unfair or foul play was rarely resorted to or permitted by those present. Death or maiming was scarcely ever known. Not to attend the muster was a cause of a court-martial and a fine of as much as ten dollars. Laws were passed from time to time changing or amending the militia laws. After the Indians were removed to the Indian Territory, the need for the militia became of less importance, the law regulating its use was made less stringent and the service not so exacting.

#### THE PATROL SERVICE.

To regulate and control the slaves, and keep them at home with their owners, a law was passed four days after Jackson County was created, establishing a patrol service in each county. Section I. provided, That every male owner of slaves and all other persons below the rank of ensign, be liable to perform military service were required to perform patrol duty, or send a substitute. The captain of infantry at every company muster appointed a patrol detachment, which consisted of a leader and not less than three nor more than five men, who should perform the duties of patrol once in each week for the term of two months, or until the next company muster. They would visit all negro quarters, all places suspected of harboring run-a-way negroes, or if any slave should be found who did not have a pass from his owner, said patrol would catch him and could give him a whipping not to exceed fifteen lashes. This patrol service was feared greatly by the slaves, and often have I heard my parents tell of the song sung by the negroes: "*Run Nigger, Run, the Patarol Will Catch You.*"



## CHAPTER IX.

### Northern Part of Marshall County

(See "History of Marshall County" by Judge Lewis Wyeth,  
Published in The Gunterville Democrat of 1883.)

ALL of that part of Marshall County north of the Tennessee River was taken from Jackson County by Act of the Legislature, on January 9, 1836. Section I. describes the boundary of Marshall County. We shall give only that part of the boundary that touches Jackson County.

Beginning at the "corner of the counties of Jackson, Blount and St. Clair on the top of Raccoon Mountain (Sand Mountain); thence along the top of said mountain to John Rain's, on the road which crosses the said mountain from Coffee settlement to Wills valley and northward with said road to south Sauta Creek and down said creek to its junction with the Tennessee River; thence across said river and up the same to Mink's landing on the north side thereof; thence on a direct line to the northeast corner of township Six of range Five east; thence north with the line dividing the Fourth and Fifth ranges to the southeast corner of Section Thirteen of township Five, range Four; thence west with the section lines to the Madison County line."

Section II. "Be it further enacted, That all citizens now residing or who may hereafter reside upon that portion of territory by this Act detached from the county of Jackson shall be liable to the same tax that may be imposed by the proper authority upon the other citizens of Jackson County until the debts now existing against the treasury of Jackson County shall be finally paid off and discharged, which tax shall be



assessed and collected by the assessor and tax collector of Jackson County, . . . . Provided, that said taxes shall be applied to nothing but the discharge of the debts herein alluded to."

Section III. "And be it further enacted, That L. D. Boshart, Edmond Bridges, John Baxter, Henry F. Scruggs, and Abram T. Hargis be and they are hereby appointed commissioners to ascertain the amount of debts now due and owing from the county treasury of Jackson County and to make an estimate as near as they can of the amount which would be the fair proportion of said claims chargeable to that portion of citizens by this Act detached from Jackson County."

It certainly looked most unfair for the people who had to pay taxes to the new county as well as the old, and caused a good deal of hard feeling in this part of Marshall County lately taken from Jackson.

The amount certified to the Treasury of Jackson County by the commissioners named in Section III, of that Act, we do not know, but think it was one thousand or twelve hundred dollars. This tax was collected for three years, after which Jackson County claimed Marshall County was due the sum of three hundred and fifty-eight dollars.

The whole matter rested here until 1858, or for sixteen years. Jackson County entered suit against Marshall County to collect the sum with interest. The case was tried March 9, 1859, and a verdict rendered in favor of the plaintiff for eight hundred and sixteen dollars and fifty-four cents. An appeal was taken to the Supreme Court, and was reversed. Marshall County finally settled the debt by paying the principal without interest.

The boundary line between Jackson, Marshall and DeKalb counties were changed in 1843, and again 1848 and 1854, and 1858.

An Act was passed in 1852, to change the line of

Jackson and Marshall counties so as to include the land of William A. McCarney, in Jackson County.

### EARLY SETTLERS.

(See O. D. Street, in *The Huntsville Daily Times*, June 28, 1925.)

Claysville became the first county seat of Marshall County. The town is now all gone, but there are a few wide-spreading oaks still standing in the residence section. This territory was settled at a very early date with an excellent class of people from Virginia, North and South Carolina and Tennessee. Some of the settlers prior to 1830 were, David Ricketts, William Barclay, Heseekiah Bayles, Edmond Bridges, James Fletcher, George Green, James Cotton, Isham H. Fennell, Abraham G. Holt, and Thomas Manning, who settled in lower Paint Rock Valley and Honey Comb Valley; Hans Kennamer and sons, Samuel, Stephen, Levi, Zachary, and Jacob Kennamer, Presley R. Woodall, Isham Wright, Jabez Perkins, Robert Chandler and Willis Woodall, in Kennamer's Cove; William Black, Bryant Cobb, Joseph G. Garrett, Hugh Henry, John C. Johnson, William McKee, Peter Stearnes, William S. Todd, Isaac Tidwell, Dr. Andrew Moore, William H. E. Wheeler, Arthur C. Beard, Washington T. May, James Randles, James Boggess, Eli Feemster, and Percival M. Bush, at Claysville and in the valley near; David Boshart, Spencer Benson, Lewis Manning, James McDonald and William A. McCamey, in the Boshart community.

The Postmasters at Claysville before it was added to Marshall County were, A. R. Barclay, James M. Mackfarlane, and William H. E. Wheeler. The Postmasters at Cottonville were, M. T. Johnson and Edmond Bridges.

## CHAPTER X.

### Mail Routes Before the Civil War

THE ACTS of Congress, dating from the earliest days of Jackson County, down to the present time show that the Postmaster General from time to time established mail routes between given postoffices. Changing conditions often made it necessary to change or discontinue existing routes. No branch of the government service has kept abreast of the times more than the postal service.

These early mail routes were carried by postmen on horseback; one was fortunate to receive mail once in two weeks. Even during the gay period of the Eighteen Forties and Fifties, to receive mail as often as once a week was considered all right.

The first route to serve Jackson County was established May 13, 1820. It was from Huntsville, by Jackson Courthouse to Ross's Landing (later Chattanooga) to Washington, in Rhea County, Tennessee. Jackson Courthouse meant Sauta, as Bellefonte did not become the county seat until one and a half years later.

In August 1822, R. J. Meigs, Jr., Postmaster General, established a mail route "from Huntsville to Jackson Courthouse, once in two weeks, forty-six miles." This was, of course, Bellefonte.

Early in 1825, a mail route was established from Bellefonte to Claysville, Gunter's Landing, to Blountsville, Alabama.

A little later another route from Bellefonte by Larkinsville, across Cumberland Mountain via Larkin's Fork, New Market, Hazel Green, Madison Cross Roads, to Athens, Alabama, Limestone County, to Elkton, Giles County, Tennessee.

A mail route from Larkinsville to Woodville was established in 1832, and continued for ten years. David Larkins was postmaster at Larkinsville, and Henry Derrick was postmaster at Woodville, when this route was established.

One from Salem, Tennessee via Larkin's Fork, Trenton, Larkinsville, Sauta, to Langston, or Coffey Town; also from Bellefonte to Scraper.

One from Winchester, Tennessee, across Cumberland Mountain by Coon Creek, Crow Creek to Bolivar and to Loving's in Wills Valley. One from Bellefonte by Langston across Sand Mountain to DeKalb Courthouse to Paris in DeKalb County.

Some of these routes were continued only a few years. When the Civil War came, all mail service was stopped over these routes.

#### MAIL ROUTES AFTER THE CIVIL WAR.

After the Civil War, Scottsboro became the center for mail service instead of Bellefonte. Mail routes to various places were gradually established and the schedules called for weekly service. Often times the same carrier would carry the mails on two routes. For more than ten years after the war, the mails from Scottsboro to Paint Rock Valley would go by train to Larkinsville, and thence by horseback across Cumberland Mountain to its destination. About 1879, Congressman Garth had the route go up the valley from Paint Rock Station, and the Postoffice at Garth was established. In the early part of 1870, one of the first routes from Scottsboro to Salem, Tennessee, via Estill's Fork, was established. The mail left Scottsboro at 9:00 A.M., Monday, arrived at Salem at noon Tuesday.

Another route was, Scottsboro to Cottonville. About this date two routes were established, to leave Larkinsville; one to Dodsonville, and the other to

Larkin's Fork. A Mr. Stockton carried the mail to Dodsonville. Joe Ellis carried the mail from Scottsboro to Lebanon, DeKalb County, also to Hunt's Station, or Salem, Tennessee. He left the service in June 1873.

This latter route went up Maynard's Cove, across the mountain to Estill's Fork, Gray's Chapel to Hunt's Station (Huntland). The route from Scottsboro to Guntersville crossed the river at Larkin's Landing via Langston, thence on the south side of the Tennessee River. Mr. Flippin was the carrier.

In the early Eighties some mail routes were changed to twice a week service. On July 1, 1882, a daily mail from Woodville to Guntersville was established; John W. Perkins was the contractor. Van Starnes and Ben Grayson were two noted carriers on this route.

Joe Blancett carried the mail from Scottsboro to Kennamer Cove, via Dodsonville and Swearengin. He also carried the mail to Gray's Chapel in Paint Rock Valley. Other mail carriers were, Mr. John Compton, John W. Ellis, and John Vernon.

C. L. Cargile, when a young man, carried the mail from Stevenson up Big Coon Valley across the mountain to Estill's Fork. He later became one of the most popular Probate Judges the county ever had.

Since the introduction of Rural routes, and the Parcel Post, Money Order Business and other improvements, the author will leave to future historians to tell.



## CHAPTER II.

## The Cherokee Indians Removed West.

All of that part of Jackson County south and east of the Tennessee River was occupied by the Cherokee Indians, until a treaty of transfer was signed at New Echota (near Rome, Georgia), on December 28, 1865. Congress had passed a law in 1834, providing for the removal of the Cherokees in Alabama, Tennessee, and Georgia, to the Indian Territory. One faction of the Indians, led by Chief John Ross, opposed the removal West and refused to sign the treaty. Their removal from their native home in 1867-28 furnished one of the touching and most pathetic stories in American history. The government thought it best to move these Indians from their homes because they resisted the civilization of the white man who had settled on their territory. These two people differed greatly in race, language and customs, and in their struggle for existence the white man would survive to the injury of the Indian. As it was impossible for whites and the Indians to live together, the government moved the Indians to the Territory west of the Mississippi. Who can not apprehend the bitter grief of the Indians on leaving their happy hunting grounds and the graves of their fathers as they turned and took one long farewell look and marched under guard to their homes in the Indian Territory.

General Winfield Scott was commander of the military forces that collected the Indians into concentration camps. His troops entered the territory of the Cherokees and divided into small parties for the purpose of searching every home. The soldiers,

with their rifles in hand, pursued the Indians as though they were wild beasts. They would surround their homes, force them out, place them in line and march them to the nearest camp. The Indians were compelled to leave all their property behind and follow the soldiers. A majority submitted to their fate without trouble, but some rebelled and were brought to camp by force. These camps, or palisades, were enclosed by stakes set in ground and pointed at the top as a fence. Many Indians died in these camps where as many as 5,000 were assembled at a time. One out of every seven died before reaching his new home in the West. There were three ports of embarkations of those who went by water: Charleston on the Hiwassee River, Ross' Landing (now Chattanooga), and Gunter's Landing on the Tennessee. By the spring of 1837, detachments were being forwarded. The journal of Dr. C. Sillybright tells the story of one such detachment which left Ross' Landing, March 3, 1837, in eleven flatboats. This fleet of flatboats was met at Gunter's Landing by the steamer *Knoxville*, which took charge of the boats and guided them to Decatur, Alabama. From Decatur a portage was made around Muscle Shoals to Tusculumbia in railroad cars. There the emigrants were met by the steamer *Revenue* with a flotilla of keels. On March 27 these emigrants were unloaded at a point just beyond Fort Smith, Arkansas.

John Ross, who had opposed all along the removal of the Indians, got an agreement with Gen. Scott to move his people. He marched more than 10,000 overland in separate bands and in different routes in order to be assured of finding a supply of water and game for food on the way. The season had been so dry the marchers suffered untold privations, and sixteen hundred perished en route. Ross' wife, who had gone on the boat, *Victoria*, died on the way and

was buried at Little Rock, Arkansas. There were a few old decrepit Indians not able to make the journey left behind to perish amid scenes most familiar to them.

Alexander Reid and Jonathan Beeson of Paint Rock Valley; William Sims, Samuel Hill, Nathan Kennamer and other citizens of the county served in the army which removed these Indians.

## CHAPTER XII.

### Railroads In Jackson County

As early as January 1830 the Tuscumbia Railway Company was chartered to build "a railroad from Tuscumbia to some eligible point on the Tennessee River." This was the first effort at railroad building west of the Allegheny Mountains.

The people of Jackson County heard of this effort at railroad building and became much interested, since the Muscle Shoals was such a handicap in getting their cotton to market at New Orleans. In the fall of 1831, some of Jackson County's citizens attended a meeting at Courtland and prepared an address to the public. This copy was presented to the Legislature by Samuel B. Moore. He was Jackson County's only Governor. This road, known as the Tuscumbia, Courtland and Decatur Railroad, later became part of the Memphis and Charleston Railroad. This latter road was chartered by the State of Tennessee on the 2nd day of February 1846, and by Act of the Legislature of Alabama on January 7, 1850, for the purpose of establishing a means of travel by railroads between Memphis, Tennessee and Charleston, South Carolina.

At the first meeting of the stockholders of the M. & C., held in Tuscumbia, they selected a Board of Directors. The Directors elected ex-Governor James C. Jones, of Memphis, Tennessee, President; Sam Cruse, of Madison Station, Treasurer for Alabama; George W. Smith, Treasurer for Tennessee; Charles F. M. Garnett, Chief Engineer; and A. E. Mills, Subscription Agent.

The Chief Engineer, Mr. Garnett, in his first report

on the location of the road, offered the following resolution. "Resolved, That the location of the road east of Huntsville, be through the County of Jackson, to intersect the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad near Crow Creek," which report was adopted by the officers of the road.

Mr. George P. Beirne, of Huntsville, succeeded Mr. Jones as President and Major James F. Cooper was elected Chief Engineer to succeed Mr. Garnett. It is a hard task to get the student of the present age to realize the difficult job of building a railroad without any modern machinery. The work was done largely with pick and shovel in the hands of negro slaves, Irishmen from the North and East, with wheelbarrows and one and two mule carts, with hand drills and hammers, and churn drills. Wooden derricks to lift large stones and blasting powder were used. The work was hindered greatly by contagious diseases, as cholera, yellow fever, smallpox and other malignant diseases.

The citizens of Jackson County had subscribed heavily to the stock, and gave the right-of-way for almost nothing in their zeal to get a way to market their surplus products. However, there were a few persons who did nothing to aid the enterprise. The building of a railroad through a country will build some towns and kill others. The people of Old Bellefonte did not want the road located near their town, and consequently it was killed after having been a flourishing business and shipping point on the Tennessee River for thirty years. It was railroads that built Stevenson and Hollywood.

The contractors who actually built the Memphis and Charleston (now the Southern) Railroad were citizens of the county. The road was graded in 1853-54. The track-laying from Stevenson toward Decatur was commenced in April 1855 and was finished on the 8th day of March, 1856, and regularly



opened for business on the 21st. The burning of the bridge at Bridgeport, November 23, 1855, delayed the track-laying ninety days.

The engines and cars used were quite small. The average speed of passenger trains, including stops for passengers and wood and water, was 17 miles per hour, and freight trains 10 miles per hour.

The officers of the road gave a mortgage on the road to get money to finish building, and the stockholders in Jackson County and other counties along the road lost all the money they had subscribed.

The Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis Railway was the first road built through the county. It was incorporated under the laws of Tennessee in 1845, was authorized by Act No. 123 of the Legislature of Alabama, approved January 21, 1850, to construct its line through the northern part of Jackson County, Alabama, and to build a bridge across the Tennessee River in said county. This railroad enters the county near Bass and passes out near Carpenter. Its total length in the county was 24 miles. It was built in 1852-53. This road was completed to Chattanooga in 1854.

Early the same year the Tennessee Legislature authorized the M. & C. to build the line from Stevenson to Chattanooga on the north side of the Tennessee River and appropriated \$10,000 per mile towards furnishing the iron and equipment for the same, and \$100,000 for constructing a bridge across Tennessee River at Chattanooga. But nothing was ever done more than making some surveys.

#### M. & C. CONTRACT WITH N. & C.

In 1857, a contract was made by which the cars of the M. & C. were run from Stevenson to Chattanooga over the N. & C.'s track. This contract was to last 30 years but was abrogated and suspended by an agreement dated October 1, 1880, in which the M. & C.

(now the Southern) was to use the tracks from Stevenson to Chattanooga, and the L. & N., owner of N. C. & St. L. to use the Southern's bridge at Decatur.

During the panic of 1893, the M. & C. went into the hands of a receiver and was acquired by the Southern Railway Company, on March 1, 1898, and since that date has been operated as the Memphis Division of the Southern Railway. When this road was built, the track was wider than the standard gauge roads. To make a standard road, so cars from other roads could run on this road, one rail was moved to conform with other roads in width. This was done May 31, 1886, on the entire track from Memphis to Stevenson. The trains were kept off the road only one day.

#### OTHER RAILROADS.

The branch line from Bridgeport toward Jasper, Tennessee, was authorized in 1860, but it was not built until 1867. There are 2.9 miles of the main track in Jackson County.

The Doran Cove branch leading off from the Bridgeport-Jasper road to Orme, Tennessee ten miles in length was built in 1905.

Gurley and Paint Rock Valley Railroad Company was authorized by Act of the Legislature, February 16, 1891. The following citizens of Madison and Jackson counties were the incorporators of said company: Frank B. Gurley, E. F. Walker, John W. Grayson, W. T. Hamer of Madison County; and M. A. Clay, Sam Butler, James P. Williams, William McMaples, of Paint Rock Valley, Jackson County.

Section 2, provided, "That the Gurley and Paint Rock Valley Railroad may commence at a point on the line of the State of Tennessee and Alabama, in the northern portion of Jackson County, Alabama, and run down Paint Rock Valley . . . to the town of

Gurley on the M. & C. railroad, and from Gurley in a southerly direction through the counties of Madison, Marshall and Etowah to Attalla or Gadsden, etc. . . ." This road was never completed but it was partly graded in the lower part of the valley, which grade can now be seen. The beginning of the pike roads in the county seems to have stopped railroad building.

Even before this date there had been much talk and some effort made to build a railroad on Sand Mountain.

The railroads have been a potent factor in the development of industry in the county.

## CHAPTER XIII.

### Slaves and Slavery

WE are not interested to know the origin of slavery as an institution as found here; but, we are to study rather their life, habits and their economic and social effect upon the whites. The slave population grew with a marked rapidity in the early settlement of the county. Many slaves were brought by their masters, and as the white settlers prospered they bought slaves in the open market. The price paid varied as the white man prospered. A young negro man, healthy and strong, would sell for more than any other class of slaves. The usual price ranged from \$600 to \$1,200 for a young negro man. Some of these slaves had a limited degree of intelligence, but more had only the ability to make a farm hand. Until after the Indians were withdrawn from this country, the danger of slaves to escape was always a menace. One has only to turn to the papers published in this early period to get a fair view of the times and customs. It is not the object of the writer to defend or to denounce slavery as it existed in the county. He wishes only to portray facts.

The whites in all ages have been the dominant race everywhere and will continue to lead all others. However, the negro should be treated justly, kindly, and fairly by the white race. It is quite obvious that the two races should be kept separate in schools, churches and in homes. The negro had a much kinder feeling for the slave owner than the poorer whites in the South.

There were no large plantations in this county as there were in the "Black-belt". Many farmers had

only two to five slaves, and the largest planters owned ten to twenty slaves. Of prime importance to every master, was the health of the slaves. Therefore, he furnished food, clothes and medical attention. The cabins, in which the slaves dwelt were rough, but warm in winter. These cabins were called "quarters" and were close to the "big-house", the name given to the master's residence. For the slaves' happiness and contentment, it was the policy of slave owners to keep them ignorant, so that the slaves may not be influenced by abolitionist's literature to escape to the north and gain their freedom. Of course, it was to the interest of the owner that a bright young man learn a trade, and that he should have a little knowledge of letters.

The patrol system, which has been described heretofore, was necessary to govern the slaves. If a slave was caught off of his master's premises without a written pass, and he was not on his way to church or to his work, he was caught and given fifteen or less lashes of the cow-hide, by the patrollers, and carried back to his master.

No work was done on Sunday except the household chores. As a rule the masters, from the best of Christian motives, showed great interest in the spiritual welfare of their slaves. Observation and common sense taught every slave owner that a good negro was more valuable than a bad one. This is probably one reason why the master encouraged slaves to go to church.

Occasionally, there was a slave owner who was hard and who mistreated his slaves. The slaves were not allowed to own or sell property. The reason was that they would steal and sell their master's goods. There was a law prohibiting the negro to testify in court against a white man, nor were there many negroes seen in court as at the present time. If a pig, turkey or chicken was gone



and the culprit happened to be caught, he would pass it off with the plea, "Marsa's pig, and Marsa's nigger got him," with a cow-hiding that ended it.

Now let's go back and view the plantation scene at night. The day's work is done, and all are ready for a frolic. There will be music and dancing, an o'possum hunt, or some other form of recreation. If old Jake was too old to work as a hand on the farm, he would plait shuck collars for the horse; Uncle Zeke would make shoes for the slaves, or Aunt Maria would wait on the Missus in the big-house or superintend the cooking in the "quarters". All were busy. This was slavery in the South as the tocsin of war sounded in 1861. Through all the bitter struggles, during the war, the slaves with hardly an exception, proved their fidelity to the women and children of their masters.

#### NEGROES FREED.

With the freeing of the slaves, many problems arose that caused a great deal of trouble for both the whites and the blacks. Among these was the poverty of the people, caused by the war. Many of the former slaves thought the government would give them forty acres of land and a mule. Consequently, they became idle and refused to work. This condition was greatly aggravated by Northern men—adventurers called "Carpet-baggers,"—who used the negro to gain power and plunder for themselves.

Many historians claim the Ku-Klux-Klan was organized in Pulaski, Tennessee, in 1866. It spread to Jackson County in the early part of 1869. J. W. Ashmore says: "The Ku-Klux-Klan was first organized at Piedmont, South Carolina, by Gen. Wade Hampton, Gen. John B. Gordon, Gen. Bedford Forrest, Benj. Perry, Ed Earl, James Lendmon, James, John and William Ashmore."

This order, disguised in white robes and hoods, rode at night. They spread terror to the negro and to any white man who happened by his conduct to call forth a visit by them. Evil men entered this order, or men disguised as such, did many deeds that should never have been committed. Negro schools were broken up; school and church houses were burned.

Ned and Frank Larkin were killed near Larkinsville by a lawless party, New Year's night, 1871. So many outrages were committed around Stevenson, by men in disguise, that a Major and a few soldiers were stationed there to preserve order, for a short while in the summer of 1870.

Mr. Whit Drake brought a colony of negroes to Trenton, Alabama, before the Civil war. Other negroes lived in Paint Rock Valley in slave time, but since gaining their freedom they have drifted away. There is only one family of colored people living in the valley at the present time. There is a feeling of mutual helpfulness between the two races now existing in Jackson County.

## CHAPTER XIV.

### Wars

#### THE MEXICAN WAR.

THE First Alabama regiment of Volunteers for the Mexican war was organized at Mobile, June 1846, for twelve months. John R. Coffey of Bellefonte, Jackson County, was made its Colonel. He was born at Wartrace, Tennessee, 1814, and spent his early days on a farm. He attended the common oldfield schools. When he was thirteen years old, he went to high school one year at Shelbyville, Tennessee. He came to Bellefonte, Jackson County, Alabama, at the age of fourteen, without a dollar in his pocket, and a stranger to every one there. When he was twenty-two years old, he began the mercantile business, and continued it for ten years until 1846. He then entered the Mexican war.

After he returned home from the war, he engaged in farming until 1853, when he moved to Stevenson, a new town, becoming one of the first merchants in the town.

He was a delegate from Jackson County to the convention which passed the ordinance of secession and was bitterly opposed to the ordinance,\* but after it passed, he gave aid to the cause of the Confederacy. He married Mary Ann Cross, in 1849.

No one in the county was more economical than he, and he became one of the wealthiest men in the county.

#### CIVIL WAR.

The author shall make no effort to trace the causes leading up to the war, nor is it his purpose to revive

the spirit of bitterness toward any class of our people. Let such a spirit rest in the dust of oblivion. We should all take a just pride in the heroic deeds and the fortitude shown in the hardships borne by all who fought on either side in this titanic struggle. The glories—if there can be glory in war—“are the common heritage of us all.”

Excitement was great everywhere in the State. However, in the northern part of the State, the Union sentiment was strong at first. Some effort was made to organize a new State out of the northern part of Alabama, which was to be called Nickajack.

Events were occurring swiftly; Governor Moore of Alabama had already seized Forts Gaines and Morgan, at the head of Mobile Bay. The Confederacy had been organized at Montgomery. President Lincoln had called for 75,000 volunteers in the North to put down the rebellion. When Jackson County heard the tocsin of war sound and the drum beat roll over the hill tops and the echo in the valleys, she sent her young men in the flower of their young manhood, to join in that bloody strife called war. The saddest fact is that many never returned. No one then dreamed or had the faintest idea of what was to be in store for all the people the next four years in the South. The old muster grounds, which the militia used previous to the removal of the Indians, were alive every week with military drills of volunteers.

One of the greatest difficulties was the lack of arms and ammunition. To make powder, it is necessary to use saltpeter. To supply the saltpeter, John B. Boren began the work of making it at the Saltpeter Cave, but the Confederate government took charge of the work and began to make saltpeter on a large scale. It was necessary to have large kettles to boil the niter; so W. T. Bennett,—who is now living at Gurley, Alabama,—was sent to Selma, Alabama, and hauled seventeen large kettles to this cave. Many

negroes were worked in the cave digging dirt. The works were guarded by Captain James Young, of Larkinsville, with a company of soldiers. Many citizens of Jackson and Marshall counties worked or furnished teams and wagons to haul at this cave. All went well until Gen. O. M. Mitchell came through the county in April, 1862. He destroyed the works, and the Confederates retreated to the south side of the Tennessee River. There were other caves in the county worked in a small way to make saltpeter.

Several volunteer companies were organized and sent to different parts of the country. Captain Lindsay raised a company at Larkinsville. Captain H. C. Bradford's company of Bellefonte was sent to Fort Morgan near Mobile. Captain Ragsdale's company from Stevenson was sent to Florida. Captain Thomas Griffin raised a company at Scottsboro. Griffin died at Knoxville not long after going to the front, and W. H. Dicus was placed in command. This company joined the Fourth Tennessee regiment under the command of Colonel Churchwell. Dr. D. K. Holmes organized a second company at Scottsboro, and it was attached to the same Fourth Tennessee. Captain Sidney Bibb organized a company at Woodville, which was sent to Fort Morgan in 1861. Captain Henry F. Smith organized a cavalry company largely from Woodville. Captain F. J. Graham organized a company at Larkinsville and Stevenson. General John B. Gordon entered the army from Jackson County as a captain of the Raccoon Roughs and was elected major of the Sixth Alabama infantry. He was promoted to Lieut. General of the Army of Virginia under Lee.

The Fifty-fifth Alabama was made up of Snodgrass and Norwood's battalions, which had already seen hard service, the former at Shiloh, Vicksburg, Baton Rouge and Corinth, and the latter at Fort Donelson. The regiment was organized at Port Hudson, Feb-



ruary 1863, and fought at Baker's Creek, Jackson and subsequent operations in Mississippi. This regiment fought on the retreat from Chickamauga to Atlanta and lost half of its officers and men. It was in the hard winter campaign with Hood at Franklin and Nashville in Tennessee when the regiment returned to North Carolina and surrendered at Greensboro.

The Fourth Alabama Cavalry was organized in December, 1862, by Colonel A. A. Russell, of Doran's Cove, Jackson County, Alabama. It was composed by uniting six companies of the old Fourth Alabama with troops who had seen much hard service under General Forrest. Russell operated in the Tennessee Valley while Hood was in the Tennessee campaign.

After the surrender, Russell went to Mexico, bought a coffee farm, and never returned on a visit to the county until 1880. He never did take the oath of allegiance to the United States and have his citizenship restored to him.

Captain Henry F. Smith, the youngest son of Brooks Smith, lived near Lim Rock at the place where Robert L. Hodges now lives. At the beginning of the Civil War, he organized a cavalry company that was in many skirmishes or battles of the war.

The following Jackson County men are those who saw service as Confederate officers sometime during the war: General John B. Gordon; Colonels A. A. Russell, John Snodgrass, A. Snodgrass; Lieutenant Colonel John H. Norwood; Majors Jerre Williams, J. H. Jones.

Captain J. H. J. Williams, better known as *Jerre*, was a civil engineer at Pole Cat Hollow near Guntersville, Alabama, helping to build the railroad from Guntersville to Attalla at the outbreak of the Civil War. He walked out in front of his tents where the big force of Irish workmen were camped and made a short talk; then he asked all that would go with

him to come forward and give their names. In less than an hour he had a full company of a hundred Irishmen enrolled. These he took to the store of Henderson & Carlisle, who furnished gratis a suit of clothes complete for the entire company. He then embarked with his company on a steamboat from Guntersville to Bridgeport and went at once at the head of his company to Richmond, Virginia. This company became Company "B" in the Ninth Alabama regiment in Wilcox's brigade. Williams was soon promoted to Major, and in the battle of Salem Church, Virginia, May 10, 1863, his conduct was so outstanding and brilliant in saving the Ninth Alabama from being killed or all captured that he was praised by his superior officers. When a lower rank officer was promoted over Major Williams, he quickly resigned and started home, and when within a hundred yards of his father's home in Bridgeport where his wife and children were, he was captured and carried to prison, where he stayed for nearly a year. Having signed the oath of allegiance, he worked at Bridgeport in the railroad office and later farmed.

Captains: Henry F. Smith, James E. Daniel, Wm. Coffey, W. S. Bruce, Thomas Bridges, J. M. Thomas, John W. Evans, Wm. D. McCampbell, J. H. Cowan, Alex Sisk, A. S. Wheeler, J. T. Witherspoon, George H. Farney, A. M. O'Neal, Alexander M. Saxon, R. B. Lindsay, J. D. Ogilvie, James H. Young, W. H. Robinson, James Sullivan, James Keith, A. Murry, W. T. Gunter, W. C. Hunt, W. L. Gordon, J. B. Ragsdale, F. J. Graham, Elias Jacobs, Patrie Seward, A. S. Bibb, P. D. Ross, Lemuel G. Meade, Frank Cotton.

Francisco Rice, born at New Market, Madison County, Ala., came to Jackson County in 1854. He defeated Gen. Austin for the State Senate in 1860, served as State Senator during the war and raised a

company at Princeton which he lead when not serving in the State Senate. He was a physician who resided near Paint Rock on the east side of the river. After the war, he resided in Madison County, holding many offices in the county.

All the volunteers from the county, as well as other volunteers of the State, were sent to Lee's Army, in Virginia; to Albert Sidney Johnston's Army, who was being hard-pressed at Fort Donelson, Corinth and Shiloh, and then sent to Mobile Bay.

On the 6th and 7th of April, the terrible battle of Shiloh was fought a few miles from the extreme northwest corner of the State. In this battle, many of our soldiers were killed or wounded. General A. S. Johnston was killed. Four days later, Gen. O. M. Mitchell, with a division of Federal troops, after a forced march entered Huntsville and captured two trains loaded with arms and supplies and also many engines, besides taking 200 prisoners. Gen. Mitchell took a train of three day coaches with one flat car in front of the engine, and came east as far as Bridgeport. He had a skirmish at Paint Rock River bridge, this being the first engagement in Jackson County. The citizens in and near Woodville heard of the approaching army and hastily assembled in the town to repel the invaders when the train came rolling in, the meeting was as hastily adjourned. "Judge" Moore, who resided at the Spout Spring, went along the side of the mountain going home and refugeed to the south side of the Tennessee River until after the war.

Two Yankee soldiers entered Henry Dillard's smokehouse and were reaching up after a ham of meat. This so enraged Mr. Dillard, being a rather quick-tempered man, that he jerked the soldier's sword out of its scabbard and thrust it through him, killing him on the spot. Dillard was captured and put on the train as it passed toward Scottsboro. He

made the soldier drunk, who was guarding him, jumped off the train and made his escape.

On this invasion, General Mitchell and his army burned the Saltpeter works. Sheriff "Big" Stephen Kennamer and James Skelton were on a hand car some distance in front of Gen. Mitchell, and they placed cross-ties on the track to impede his progress. The Union troops, on their arrival in Scottsboro, arrested thirty citizens of the town and tried very hard to get them to tell who placed the cross-ties on the railroad track, but no one would tell, even though threatened with death. Seeing they could get no information, they released them. General Mitchell and his troops proceeded as far east as Bridgeport.

"Early in the spring of 1862, the Confederate Congress passed an act conscripting all white men for army service, who were physically able to bear arms, between the ages of 18 and 35, except certain classes, such as masters or overseers of slaves engaged in agriculture, preachers, doctors, millers, etc. The age was soon afterwards extended to 45." (*Miller.*) McMahan was conscript officer in this county.

Rather than enter the Confederate Army, a number of Union men entered the Federal lines, volunteered as scouts and guides in the Federal cavalry, or hid out as long as it was possible to do so. A few men took their families North for the duration of the war.

About this time, Captain Rufus Jondan organized the First Alabama Viadet Cavalry, a Union company in Hog-Jaw Valley across the Tennessee River from Bridgeport in Jackson County. This cavalry was enlisted for one year.

Union men who sided with the North during the war were denounced as "Tories" by a large part of the citizens of the State and were hated as were the Tories in the Revolutionary War. They and their



families suffered as much or more than any other class during the war.

There was rejoicing in the county when Gen. Bragg invaded Tennessee and Kentucky, forcing the withdrawal of all Federal garrisons in the county during the last days of August 1862, but this rejoicing was turned into sorrow by early Spring, 1863. The north side of the Tennessee River was in the hands of the Federal Army from this date to the close of the war, except a few weeks on Hood's invasion of Tennessee in the latter part of 1864.

On the 7th and 8th of October, 1863, Colonel P. D. Roddy with a part of the old Fourth Alabama Cavalry, crossed the Tennessee River at Larkin's Landing and Guntersville and came through the county on his way to make a raid against the Federal communications in Tennessee. In a short skirmish, he captured a small garrison at the tunnel near Bass and partially wrecked the mouth of the tunnel, not having enough powder to spare to destroy the latter. He then turned and went toward New Market, Alabama.

#### SHERMAN'S MARCH THROUGH JACKSON COUNTY.

General Grant having superceded Gen. Rosecrans at Chattanooga, October 9, 1863, wrote Gen. W. T. Sherman, Commander of the Army of the Tennessee, on October 27th, at Corinth, "to drop all work and hurry eastward with all possible dispatch toward Bridgeport," the concentration point on the Tennessee River below Chattanooga. After receiving this letter, Sherman marched two divisions in great haste along the M. & C. railroad toward Bridgeport. Rain fell and the mud was abysmal. There were delays while bridges were built and while steamboats were brought up to act as ferries. So slow was his progress that it required thirteen days to march the



last stretch of 115 miles of his journey to Bridgeport. With this march was the famous Fifteenth Army Corps, who spent the winter of 1863-64 in Jackson County, under General John A. Logan, who had succeeded Frank P. Blair as head of the Fifteenth Army Corps.

Grant ordered Sherman, with this Fifteenth Corps, to Bridgeport late in December and to go into winter quarters along the Tennessee River. They located at different points in the county from Bridgeport to Woodville. "Sherman went north on a vacation for a few weeks, consigning his army into Logan's hands." The soldiers wintered in new uniforms in good houses and with much revelry. Foraging was easy and not often dangerous. Many of these soldiers were located at Bellefonte, Larkin's Landing, Woodville and other points.

Peter Joseph Osterhaus, second in command, arrived in Woodville December 27th, and spent the winter here and broke camp the 22nd of May, 1864, to join the army in the campaign from Chattanooga to Atlanta. General Logan was with this army in Woodville for three weeks.

#### BOAT BUILDING AT BRIDGEPORT.

Mr. T. J. Campbell in his history, "*The Upper Tennessee*," says: "Captain Authur Edwards, assistant quartermaster, was sent to Bridgeport with a corps of mechanics and builders and ordered to construct floating craft to meet the emergency." He built a small steamer, the *Chattanooga*, which was of great service in carrying supplies to Kelly's Ford (Ferry), and which probably saved Grant's Army in Chattanooga from evacuating the city. Eight other boats were constructed by the Federal government at Bridgeport and at Chattanooga during the winter of 1863-64, as follows: "The *Chattanooga*, the *Chickamauga*, the *Wauhatchie*, the *Resaca*, the *Lookout*, the

*Stone River, the Kingston, the Bridgeport and the Missionary."*

We do not know who built the *Dunbar* and the *Paint Rock*, which had been in the service of the Confederacy. When General Braxton Bragg evacuated Chattanooga, these boats were sunk. They were later raised, repaired and employed by the Federals. The *Paint Rock* again sank and was abandoned. The other boats were sold very cheaply after the war.

On the 25th of January, 1864, a party of Confederate scouts after dark captured seventeen teamsters and ninety horses from a Federal carrol near the M. & C. railroad where Gen Osterhaus was camped just east of Woodville. The next day, a company of U. S. troops sent to pursue the foregoing scouts had a brisk skirmish with a party of Confederates between Cobb's Mill (now Butler's Mill) and New Hope.

From January 25th to February 5th, 1864, Federal General M. L. Smith, who was stationed at Larkinsville, made a raid toward Rome, Georgia. Before reaching Lebanon, DeKalb County, he was attacked by small bands of scouts which were easily repulsed. Meeting a strong force of Confederates in front of his main column, he retreated without a fight. While on this raid, he secured a company of recruits for the First Alabama Union cavalry and captured fifty prisoners.

On the 8th of April, Colonel Wade, commanding an Indiana regiment, reported that one of his corporals and fifteen privates were attacked and defeated that day with a loss of one killed and one wounded by a superior force of Confederates at Paint Rock Bridge.

On the 11th of April, Federal Colonel Stedman made a raid on the south side of the river from Stevenson by way of Caperton's Ferry, and arrested some prominent citizens.

From the 12th to the 17th of April, 1864, General J. W. Geary, who afterward became Governor of Pennsylvania, made a bold reconnoissance down the Tennessee River from Bridgeport to Triana and back with 800 men on a steam boat and two scows in tow. He had four pieces of artillery on the deck of the boat. His object in making this expedition was to destroy ferry and other boats and to warn the citizens of the penalty for permitting the building of boats on their land. He was fired upon several times by Confederate scouts lead by Mead, Smith, May, Whitecotton and Dillard.

On the 17th of November, the Fourth Alabama cavalry, under Colonel A. A. Russell, skirmished with Federal cavalry at Maysville and New Market and again on the 25th of November at Duckett's plantation in Paint Rock Valley but was forced back with some loss. Captain John B. Kennamer's company of "Union Scouts and Guides" and Captain Huffer, with a detachment of mounted Indiana troops, were in these engagements. Colonel L. P. Lyon was stationed a few months at Paint Rock Bridge. There was a skirmish one-half mile west of Woodville, between Confederate scouts and a squad of Col. Lyon's soldiers in which Richard Kirby was killed and Pate Law and two other scouts were wounded. When General Hood, Confederate, advanced into Tennessee, the Federal forces from Huntsville and other places along the railroad retreated toward Stevenson. Colonel Russell captured 450 negroes who were following the Union Army. He also captured many wagons and mules, but within two months the Confederates had to retreat. Col. Russell had a skirmish with Col. Prosser, at Paint Rock Bridge on the 7th of December, 1864. On the 31st of this same month, Colonels Russell and Mead captured forty prisoners. The snow was on the ground, and some of Col. Lyon's

men escaped barefooted and ran several miles. These prisoners were carried up on Cumberland Mountain and then down the mountain across the railroad just west of Lim Rock, then up on Gunter's Mountain and to Guntersville, arriving just at daylight.

It is well to remember that Colonel L. P. Lyon was a Federal officer and that General W. H. Lyon was a Confederate officer.

#### A SKIRMISH AT SCOTTSBORO.

After Col. Harrow was recalled, Major Hannon, with four negro companies, was stationed at Scottsboro, with headquarters in the freight depot, to guard the railroad. These negro soldiers did much damage to the citizens in taking livestock and other supplies and intimidating the townspeople.

General W. H. Lyon, on his retreat from the invasion in Kentucky and Tennessee to the south side of the Tennessee River, at the head of 500 cavalry, came into upper Paint Rock Valley, thence across Cumberland Mountain down through Maynard's Cove to Scottsboro. With the small cannon, he attacked the garrison at the depot, January 9, 1865. One shot struck the plaster on the wall above the negro soldiers, and, as it fell over the soldiers, they scattered to the mountains like a flushed covey of birds. The loss was small on both sides. Gen. Lyon hastened on toward Guntersville to join the main army with the wagon-trains and artillery. It was with great difficulty that he crossed the river and eluded Federal gunboats. He crossed the river at the "Lost Ferry" about two miles below Deposit. As the last ferry boats were in mid-stream, the Federal gunboats opened fire on them, but Lyon's army got across. The second night after the crossing, the Confederates camped eighteen miles away at Red Hill. Thinking

they were safe within their own lines, they failed to post pickets. During the night, a body of Federal cavalry, commanded by Gen. W. A. Palmer (a candidate for president in 1896, as a gold standard Democrat), surrounded the camp and made many prisoners before the sleeping soldiers realized they were attacked. Col. L. P. Lyon of Ohio made his way to General W. H. Lyon's room and captured the General. The latter asked time to dress, seized his pistol and killed Col. Lyon and escaped in the dark. Gen. Palmer retreated to the north side of the river with the dead body of Col. Lyon and the prisoners.

#### ENGAGEMENT AT STEVENSON.

A regiment of Sherman's Army was stationed at Stevenson during the winter of 1863-64, under the command of Colonel Krzyznewski of Michigan, a German Jew, with headquarters in the Cowan building. His quartermaster, Major Warren, had his headquarters in the only brick building in the town, the Jacoway or Austin building. Captain Wash Phillips of Ohio was wagon-master.

General Bragg sent Colonel Russell at the head of about 700 soldiers, mostly infantry, with three cannons. They crossed the Tennessee River from the south side and engaged the Union soldiers in and near Stevenson. After an all-day fight, the Union Soldiers were forced to retreat as far as Winchester, Tennessee, with Colonel Russell following as far as Anderson. In this engagement, Russell placed one cannon on Cotnam Hill, one on McMahan Hill, and the third one on Russell's Hill. The Confederates had one man wounded as his horse was shot from under him near the Mitchell's Mill place. On the Union side, a few soldiers were killed and some were wounded.



## HUNT'S MILL FIGHT.

Captain Williams of Indiana, with some of Captain Eph Latham's Home Guards and Scouts, was stationed at Hunt's Mill on the railroad about three miles west of Scottsboro. Captain Henry F. Smith came from the south side of the Tennessee River and attacked this garrison and captured six men of Capt. Latham's company and carried them back across the river as prisoners. Smith gave orders to carry there prisoners to Gen. Bragg near Chattanooga and return at once. That was the last heard of the prisoners. One Confederate, Jasper Grant, was killed while riding by the side of Capt. Smith. The Federals came and arrested two prominent aged citizens, John W. Shook and Cary Staples. They carried them to Stevenson and put them in prison. While they were there, they contracted smallpox. Mr. Shook was brought home, and he soon died.

On January 26, 1865, Prince Salm-Salm, Colonel of the sixty-eighth New York, went by boat from Bridgeport down to Roman's Landing and made a raid to Elrod's tanyard in DeKalb County, where he attacked Capt. Sparks' company at night. He killed one and captured three of the company. A Federal lieutenant was killed. On his way back, he was harassed by Captain Geo. W. Butler's company, which belonged to Col. Lowe's regiment. Butler was killed on Sand Mountain in April, as he was on his way home from the army.

In March, a part of Col. Mead's command skirmished with a small body of Federals near Boyd Switch (now Lim Rock) and Stevenson.

In February, 1865, a part of Frank Cotton's company stayed all night in the upper end of Paint Rock Valley at the home of Abb Wilson. They had warning that in the valley near them were Union soldiers. The next morning, Cotton's scouts, led by 1st Lieut.

Bryant Jones, started up the valley without sending any advance guard ahead. They met quite a number of the Union force. Jones, with part of the company, turned and retreated rapidly, but the other part of the company, led by 2nd Lieut. John A. Brown, were surrounded, and six of them were captured. Those captured were: W. J. Fletcher, J. B. Parkhill, Dave Stephens, West Hazelwood, Elic Sinclair and William Morris. They were carried to Camp Chase near Columbus, Ohio, and kept in prison until after the war closed.

### THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

When President William McKinley called for volunteers, in April 1898, in the war with Spain, because of the sinking of the Battleship *Maine*, in the harbor of Havana, Cuba, and Spain's treatment of Cuba, many young men in Jackson County responded. Company "I", Second Alabama regiment was organized at Camp Johnson, Mobile, Alabama, May 27, 1898. After being mustered into volunteer service, they were moved to Miami, Florida, June 30; transferred to Jacksonville, Florida, August 4, and brought to Montgomery for muster out, October 17. They were given 30 days furlough. They returned and remained in camp at Riverside until Monday, September 30, 1898. The officers of this company were: Captain, Charles Quintard Beech; First Lieut., Gideon Price Bouldin; Second Lieut., James Robert Campbell; First Sergt., James McCord Skelton; Second Sergt., Felix Robertson; Sergeants, William E. Harris, William Rutledge Larkin, Jr., Robert Kinkle Harris, and John E. Cotton; Corporals, Wm. D. Keeton, Joseph C. Erwin, Rufus S. Porter, Thomas I. Humphrey, Jr., Fred Arn and Charles Rice Coffey. Musicians: John Deere, Franklin Elmore Kenamer, Strauss Edmonds, E. B. Houk, Alfred Houk, and Lee Matthews; Artificer, William Gentle; Wag-

oners, Richard H. Smith and Jesse A. Proctor. No finer body of privates ever went to war. With unscreened barracks, unsanitary toilets and poor canned beef, the typhoid fever killed many of the soldiers.

Captain John Sheffey, of Huntsville, and Dr. Andrew Boyd, of Scottsboro, enlisted a negro company in this county. This negro company was mustered in third Alabama regiment of Colored Volunteers. None of the soldiers from this county ever got to Cuba to fight.

## CHAPTER XV.

### Hardtimes

It was hard times in Dixie during the war. Only those who had actual experience of such times know much about the privations suffered by the people. No part of the South suffered more than the people in Jackson County. It was in this county that first one army and then the other passed, from the beginning of 1862 until the close of the war. If one army failed to get what you had the other one took it. And besides, the Fifteenth Army Corps of General Sherman's Army wintered in this county, and it was his policy to cripple the enemy by taking his property to support the war. In nearly every home not a chicken, or goose or duck was left. Often the commonest necessities of life could not be had with the greatest effort to obtain them. All kinds of substitutes were resorted to to get something to barely live.

Salt was relatively the highest priced article of prime necessity during the war. It was ready sale at \$1 to \$5 per pound, indeed it was almost impossible to get it at any price. So the people dug up the ground in smoke-houses, put the dirt into hoppers, with a trough or other vessel underneath to catch the seeping water, which had been poured on the dirt in the hopper. This water was then boiled down to make salt. Such salt was as dark as the darkest brown sugar, and dirty enough for all practical uses. No smoke-house escaped the digging for salt.

Just after the close of the war, in the fall of 1865, William Perkins, Robert J. Hodges, William Grayson, Silas Kennamer and John H. Evans drove two-horse

wagons all the way to the Salt Springs in Virginia and hauled salt to Woodville. It took seven weeks to make the round trip. Doubtless, others in the county did the same thing, as salt was so scarce and hard to get.

Would you smile when I tell you that tea made of parched rye, corn meal, sweet potatoes, acorns, okra and such things were used as substitutes for coffee? Sassafras tea was a popular substitute. The Federal blockade cut off the importation of coffee, sugar, quinine and other articles of prime need.

Women and children worked like slaves and lived in constant dread of robbers, murderers, or the torch, followed the plow, fed the stock—if any were left—hid bread and meat in cellar, loft or field, spun and wove their clothing. They used thorns for hair pins, made hats of shucks or straw, carried corn to mill, hid their horses in the bushes.

My mother had the last horse on the place taken from her while carrying corn to mill. She was left alone with her side-saddle and “turn” to walk home.

Others, doubtless, had worse experiences. Such are the horrors of a fratricidal war! Many dug a deep hole in dead of night, in their smoke-house, or some part of the barn, carried off the surplus dirt and hid it, buried their meat or other valuables in that hole in a box, covered up the place nicely, sprinkled ashes over the place, to conceal all traces of the grave. When absolutely necessary to prevent starvation, they would at night resurrect some of the meat or meal or whatever was so hidden, and again close the grave with great care.

It was Larrimore who said: “Though the fountain of time’s onrushing stream be not dried up in ten thousand ages, neither tongue, nor pencil, nor pen, nor all combined with human and angelic wisdom and skill can ever do justice to the trials of the fairer, feebler, purer, truer, and braver sex.”



Everything had to be made by hand. They could buy no buttons, no nails, no sewing-thread, needles, or pins; no dishes; no matches; no writing-pens, lead pencils, or writing paper; no plows; no axes, saws, hammers, augers, or other tools; no tin buckets; no medicine of any kind. When the fire went out, they had to borrow of those who had it if they had no dry spunk and flint. Sewing-thread was spun by hand, and the only needles in use were those that were bought before the war. Each neighborhood had only a few of them, and they were kept going day and night, and the breaking of one was lamented as a public calamity. Dyes were made at home of indigo, bark of trees, or walnut hulls, the latter two "set" with copperas.

The women alone or attended by small boys would often travel in wagon or even ride horseback over rough roads a distance of twenty or thirty miles to get a five-pound bunch of yarn. They had nothing to use for sweetening except sorghum molasses.

Their home-made clothes were fastened on by home-made buttons of leather, or pieces of gourd or wood. Persimmon seed were used for small buttons. Beset by such difficulties and terrorized by such dangers, the women, with a few decrepit old men and children struggled through four years of horrible war.

The soldiers on both sides were brave men, but they had to suffer and endure no greater hardships than did the women.

## CHAPTER XVI.

### Court Houses

THE first Courthouse was built at Bellefonte, just after the year 1828. It served the people of the county thirty-five years or longer. Little things, seemingly, can determine the destiny of a town as well as of an individual. When the M. & C. railroad was being surveyed, the citizens of Bellefonte did not want the railroad to come there, and they actually worked against its being located near them.

Previous to the coming of a railroad through the county, Bellefonte had enjoyed a good river trade, and the town grew and prospered. The building of the M. & C. railroad was a great stimulant to the up-building of Scottsboro and, likewise, the means that ultimately killed Bellefonte.

The old Court House in Bellefonte was badly in need of repairs or a new building to be in keeping with the growth of the county. Therefore, the Legislature on the 17th of December, 1859, passed an Act with the following provisions, "setting the first Monday in May, 1860, for an election to be held in the county to ascertain whether or not the Court House should be moved." The words "removal" and "no removal" were written on the tickets. "If no removal carried, the Commissioners shall erect or suitably repair the old building. If the majority are for removal, then it shall be the duty of the Sheriff to advertise an election to be held on the first Monday in August, at which the people shall be allowed to vote for whatever place they may deem suitable, writing the name of the place so voted for on the ticket."

Stevenson, Larkinsville, Scottsboro and Hollywood all made an effort to get the court house. The election was held, and the court house voted to be located at Stevenson, but on account of the Civil war, they failed to give it attention.

Stevenson had wanted the court house for some years and had won in the election fairly and squarely. Scottsboro was not as large a town as Stevenson or Larkinsville, but desired to get the court house located there. Larkinsville made a strong effort to secure the location of the court house and was the largest voting precinct in the county.

When the Legislature met in 1868, Charles O. Whitney, a northern man residing in Scottsboro, was the state senator. He got an Act passed, August 3, 1868, to allow the County Commissioners to locate the county site. The title was, "To establish a county site for Jackson County."

"The County Commissioners are hereby authorized and required within sixty days to select the most suitable place for a permanent county site on the Memphis and Charleston railroad within eight miles of the center of the county." (This latter clause knocked out Stevenson and Larkinsville, for both were more than eight miles from the center of the county.) "They shall take into consideration the health, water and roads. The Court of Commissioners is to select sites for court house and jail."

Three members of the Court, William Stockton, R. A. Coffey and Thos. J. Mitchell, met August 10, 1868. Alexander Reed did not meet with them until September 5th, after the court had notified him to appear. They met August 18th, to examine Cowan Springs, which was about one mile east of Hollywood, and also Scottsboro and Fackler, which had been nominated. The last day of August was set to hear proposals. On September 5, 1868, all members of the court were present, and the vote was taken on

the court house. William Stockton voted for the court house to be located at Scottsboro. R. A. Coffey voted for Cowan Springs, but there is no record of the vote of T. J. Mitchell and Alexander Reed. Judge Tate declared Scottsboro duly elected the county site."

The court met on the 10th of the month to select the spot for the county buildings in Scottsboro. Andy Whitworth and G. W. Stovall were appointed to superintend this work. A special term of the court was called October 12, 1868, to meet in Bellefonte. The court levied a special tax of 25 per cent upon State and County to be set aside as a fund to be expended in building the court house and jail.

The regular term met Monday, November 9, 1868, and ordered the county records to be moved from Bellefonte to Scottsboro. Said records were moved Friday, November 13, 1868, costing \$15.00.

Plans of A. M. Bradley for building the court house were adopted January 4, 1869, and the next day he was employed to supervise the building of said house at \$75.00 per month. The contract to build the court house was made with John D. Boren of Stevenson, March 9, 1869, to cost \$24,500, and to be completed by December 1, 1870.

The special tax was raised to thirty-three and one-third per cent of State and County tax and issued \$3,000.00 worth of bonds at 8% to pay for erecting the court house. The court house was 50 feet, 8 inches square from outside to outside. It was made of good brick and was covered with cedar shingles.

Judge David Tate moved his office into the new brick house of Conley and Miller, near the railroad, in November 1868, until the new court house could be built.

This new court house was burned in the spring of 1879 and rebuilt that same year, using the old walls. Nothing was new except the woodwork.

As early as 1909, there was some talk of building a new court house. Judge J. B. Hackworth and the Commissioners decided to rebuild the court house, using the old walls. The work of dismantling the old court house was begun in May, 1912. The architect, R. H. Hunt of Chattanooga, condemned these walls. After much discussion and some delay, the Commissioners decided to tear away the old walls and build a new court house.

There was a great deal of opposition to the building of a new court house, in the northeastern part of the county. A mass meeting was held at Stevenson of citizens of Stevenson, Bridgeport, Bass and surrounding communities, to enjoin the Commissioners from building the court house at Scottsboro. W. W. Sanders was made chairman of this meeting and E. K. Mann was made secretary. They asked that the people of the county be allowed to vote on the place where the new court house should be built. Lawrence Cooper, of Huntsville, was employed to investigate the legal status of the court house question. Stevenson and Bridgeport filed a bill in Chancery Court to cancel the contract to build the court house. Chancellor W. H. Simpson rendered a decree favorable to Scottsboro, as follows: "Upon due consideration, thereof, it is the opinion of the court that the said demurrer is well taken. It is therefore ordered, adjudged and decreed by the court that the said demurrer to the original bill as amended be, and the same is hereby sustained. It is further ordered that the complainants have fifteen days from this date in which to amend their bill as they may be advised."—W. H. Simpson, Chancellor. This was July 1, 1912.

The Commissioners issued warrants to build the court house. The citizens of Scottsboro bought a majority of these warrants.



So the present court house in Scottsboro was built, costing about \$44,000, besides the heating plant.

#### JAILS IN SCOTTSBORO.

In January 1870, Judge David Tate advertised for bids to build a temporary jail in Scottsboro, to be opened on the second Monday in February. The specifications were as follows: "The dimensions of the prison room to be 12x16 feet, built of hewn timber 12 inches square, to be 8 logs high, floored on the bottom and top with the same material, and the corners to be confined together securely by means of an iron rod running through each from top to bottom." There was a room built over the prison room, of good, undressed lumber and covered with two-foot boards. Also by the side of the prison room was built a room of like material.

#### THE NEW JAIL.

The brick jail now in use in Scottsboro was built in 1872-73. General H. H. Higgins was the contractor, Colonel John Snodgrass made the blick, and W. R. Larkin furnished the lumber. The construction was begun in the summer of 1872, and was finished in the fall of 1873.

The prisoners who were confined in the Bellefonte jail were removed to the new jail in Scottsboro, on Monday, September 29, 1873.

## CHAPTER XVII.

### Churches

IN the early settlement of the county, religion did not take as prominent a place as it did later. The average pioneer settler was not inclined to be strictly religious, but he was positive in whatever position he happened to choose.

The neighborhood meeting house was built for all denominations to preach in, and was also used as a school house. It was a log house, perhaps, about twenty-four feet square, the pulpit was about six feet square and four feet high, opened on one side and one end.

All preachers, whether large or small, were invisible to the audience when seated in the pulpit. There was a door in each end of the house, one for the men and the other for the women to come in and go out. There was usually a small window back of the pulpit. The unchinked cracks in the wall furnished ventilation. The chimney in the side of the house was built of sticks and dirt. The seats were split logs supported by pegs driven in auger holes underneath, with no rests for the feet or supports for the back.

It had come to be quite a fashion for even ministers of the gospel to carry in their leathern saddlebags a flask of liquor, for their oft infirmities, for they, in their fondness for it, would quote Paul's injunction to Timothy "to take a little wine for the sake of the stomach."

#### PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS.

The history of the earliest Baptists in the county was marked by a fierce struggle between the anti-

mission and the mission Baptist. The anti-mission faction was stigmatized as "*Hardshells*" while they adopted the name of Primitive Baptist, claiming apostolic descent and insisting that they were adhering to New Testament principles and practices.

The Baptist historian, Riley, says that the Flint River Association was organized at Bradshaw's Meeting House, Lincoln County, Tennessee, September 26, 1814, and that churches from the territory in Alabama, which afterward became Jackson County, were represented.

The original minute book now in the hands of James Wilhelms, Clerk, Langston, Alabama, shows that the Mud Creek Association was organized on the Third Saturday in November, 1821, at the Mud Creek Meeting House. This Association included all Baptist churches in Jackson County and some churches in Sequatchie Valley, in Tennessee. The nine churches in the Association were: Mountgilled, Mud Creek, Providence (in Maynard's Cove), New Hope, Hopewell, Blue Spring, Friendship, Paint Rock (in the valley), and Union, in Sequatchie Valley.

Isaac Reed was elected first Moderator, Josiah Conn, Clerk. The delegates from the following churches, to-wit: (1) Mountgilled—John Kelly, Shadreck Herron and Samuel Wilson. (2) Mud Creek—John Ham, Andrew Estes and Josiah Conn. (3) Providence—Hugh Gentry, John Owens and Levi Isbell. (4) New Hope—Elisha Blevins, Haden Williams and John Blevins. (5) Hopewell—David Bryant. (6) Blue Spring—James Dodson, John Jones and David Settles. (7) Friendship—Richard Wilson, Daniel and John Morris. (8) Paint Rock—John Williams and John Reed. (9) Union—Samuel McBee.

On the 12th of October, 1827, the Association met with the Paint Rock church, Samuel McBee, Moderator, and Henry Gotcher, Clerk, and received into

the Association, Sardis Church, in upper Paint Rock Valley, and Mount Pisgah Church, in Kennamer Cove. Delegates from Mount Pisgah were Jabez Perkins and David Kennamer. In 1829, Bethel Church joined the Mud Creek Association; John Moon and Moses Maples were delegates.

Before the year 1835, the churches in Sequatchie Valley dropped out. The Association met again with the Paint Rock Church, October 1835, and Union Church, of Woodville, was received into the Association; delegates, Joseph Maples, John Moon, William Maples and S. Stephens.

Just after the Civil war there was a great revival of religion everywhere. Union Church held a great revival and it became the largest church of Primitive Baptists in North Alabama and has remained such to the present.

The following may be named as preachers of this church who were well and favorably known in their day: John Williams, John Reed, Isaac Reed, Samuel McBee, Jabez Perkins, Wesley Sisk, Robert Chandler, Elijah Berry, John J. Page, Peter Maples, Simeon Houk, Andrew J. Wann, John Butler, George F. Bulman, and his grandson, George W. Bulman, M. R. Lyon, James Austin, Samuel Bean, Robert Morris, Lorenza Ivy and son, James Poke Ivy, and John Brannum.

#### CHURCH OF CHRIST.

The Church of Christ has no creed but the Bible and has no organization larger than the local congregation. Its officers are the Elders and Deacons. It believes and teaches that all rational responsible persons must obey the conditions of faith, repentance and immersion in water in order to be saved. It claims to be Apostolic in origin, doctrine and practice.

The first church in the county was organized at Antioch about three miles west of Bridgeport, in 1815.

Some claim this church was organized earlier, that there is on exhibition in the State Capitol at Nashville, Tennessee, a church letter written in 1811 to a sister in the church in Middle Tennessee, which she brought to Antioch Church and became a member of said church.

James Anderson, father of William Anderson, late president of Nashville Bible School, was one of the first ministers of this church. He began to preach in 1827. The Elders at this time were, Elisha M. Price, William King and Andrew Russell. It is said Antioch Church was started through the preaching of Barton W. Stone, E. D. Moore and their associates. This, no doubt, is the first Church of Christ established in Alabama.

In 1846, the Antioch Church moved to Rocky Spring, one mile nearer Bridgeport. The first building was of hewn logs, 20x30 feet, and had a stone chimney. It was destroyed by Northern soldiers during the Civil war. The following ministers preached in this house: Reese Jones, Tolbert Fanning, James and Andrew Billingsley, Madison Love, and Sikes, all of Tennessee, and Dr. Hooker, of Georgia. George Washington Cone held a great meeting here in the Eighteen Fifties. Washington Bacon preached here before the Civil war. He came from Georgia and did a great deal of preaching in the county after the war. After the Rocky Spring building was torn down the church returned to Antioch and worshipped there for awhile. Thomas Weather-  
spoon held a great meeting here in 1864.

After the war a temporary church house was erected at Rocky Spring. A. Allison, Chas. Jones and Joseph Wheeler, all of Georgia, preached here. In 1868, a large church house was built a few yards from the site used in 1846. Meetings were held by G. B. Stone, the Sewells, David Lipscomb, William Anderson and others. Some came as far as fifty



miles to attend these meetings. Two sermons a day and no preaching at night was the rule. A new building was erected in 1912.

The influence of this church has reached over the nation, but its former glory has long since departed. There are a few members of the church who still worship here.

### *Church of Christ at Scottsboro.*

In January 1884, James A. Harding and daughter as singer, held a meeting in the Missionary Baptist's Church house in Scottsboro. In the latter part of this same year J. W. Shepherd of Kentucky held a meeting at the same place. These meetings resulted in a congregation being organized. B. C. Goodwin preached here in 1885. A church house was erected the next year. Harding held another meeting in September 1886, in the new church house. J. W. Daniel was an Elder in this church.

About this date a congregation was organized in Dry Cove. After the church house here was burned, the congregation moved to near Dr. Gattis' place, or where Mr. Huston Roden now lives. This church was called Zion's Rest. At one time there were a hundred members in this church, but trouble arose in the church and deaths and removal to other places have caused it to cease to be. John Marcum and R. H. Boll preached here.

The church at Woodville was started by members of the Kennamer Cove Church moving to Woodville. The first meeting was held in a tent, by R. N. Moody. He was followed by J. M. Gainer who held a meeting in the old Methodist Church house. The church erected a house in the summer of 1913. The church has grown from this time and is one of the strongest churches in the county.

There is a Church at Garth. The McFarlanes,

Frank Yarbrough and Frank Jones are the leaders here.

The church at Paint Rock was located up near the foot of Keel's Mountain in the town. They built a new church house down on the new highway. This congregation has never been large, but they are doing good work.

The church at Stevenson was started by W. J. Rorex, Dock Wilson, Zack Taylor and Frank Forshee. S. R. Logue held a meeting and the church was organized.

There is a small church between Aspel and Lim Rock, called Jennie's Chapel.

At Pikeville, in Maynard's Cove, is a small congregation, and near Dutton, on Sand Mountain. This latter church has a good house and is active in religious work. There are members of the church at Section, Hollywood, Pisgah and other places in the county.

Bridgeport Church of Christ is the largest one in the county. It was organized about 1891. It made little progress until it was reorganized in 1896. Elders were Mr. Vaught, Dr. Rutledge and Mr. Taylor.

In 1901, Elder J. W. Grant, of Nashville, started Alateenga College and the church grew rapidly. The church owns a splendid building and has a membership of nearly 200. The present Elders are J. R. Loyd, L. H. Hughes and J. T. Parton.

The congregation at Long Island was started by the Bridgeport Church. Charles W. C. Hall did much to establish the church in Bridgeport.

George Washington Bacon, Joseph Wheeler and Virgil Wood lived in the county just after the Civil war, did a great deal of preaching and were the means of planting the church in the county. B. C. Goodwin, Joe Jones, R. W. Jernigan, Dr. J. J. Horton, L. B. Jones, Charles Holder and J. M. Gainer have been active in preaching in the county.

## THE METHODIST CHURCH.

In religious matters, the Methodists and Baptists have been keen rivals in the work of spreading their doctrines among the common people. With the organization of the Methodist Society, a central governing body made up of the bishops, a definite policy could be carried to the frontier settlements. This led to the development of the circuit rider.

Anson West, Methodist historian, said: "The Jackson Circuit was named for this county." It was in the Tennessee District in the Tennessee Conference. "For 1822, Elias Tidwell and Richard Neely were appointed to Jackson, and they reported at the end of the year to the Annual Conference, 231 white members under their jurisdiction.

"Thomas A. Young and Greenberry Garrett were assigned to Jackson circuit for 1823,—members, 314 white, 22 colored members in the Circuit."

It had all along been the custom to receive the slaves into the church of the whites, with the privileges of membership, not only by the Methodists but other churches.

For 1824, James McFerrin and Arthur McClure, this being the first year James McFerrin served as itinerate minister. He had been living, as a local preacher, two or three years at or near Bellefonte. He and his family held membership in the Jackson Circuit. He was the father of William M. McFerrin, who was a useful preacher in the church. John B. McFerrin, another son, attained to great eminence in the Methodist Church, and whose life has been written. His last work in Alabama was in the capacity of presiding elder of the Florence District.

There was a Paint Rock Circuit organized in 1824 and continued only three years.

For Jackson Circuit, 1825—James McFerrin, Alexander L. P. Green. For 1826—George W. Morris,

Alexander L. P. Green. For 1827—Thomas M. King, James E. Brown, Richard Neely, Sup. For 1828—George W. Morris, Samuel R. Davidson, Sup. For 1829—Jacob Ellinger. For 1830—Nathan S. Johnson, Isaac H. Harris. For 1831—Hiram M. Glass, Asbury Davidson. For 1832—Elisha J. Dodson, Robert Gregory.

Dodson was trained under his parents in the Calvinistic doctrines, but was converted at a "camp meeting", which we shall describe shortly. At the close of 1832, there were in the bounds of Jackson Circuit, 525 white and thirty-eight colored members. Churches in this Circuit: Bellefonte, Bolivar, Doran's Cove, Maynard's Cove, Stevenson, and Blue Spring, east of Sauta Creek.

This church continued to grow until the division caused by the slavery question. The Southern churches were called "The Methodist Episcopal Church, South." The other part of the Methodist Church was called "The Northern Methodist Church," which we shall speak of later.

In 1870, the North Alabama Conference was organized, and all the M. E. Churches, South, became a part of said Conference. From this time on there has been a great increase in members, contributions and other activities.

### *Camp Meetings.*

In the Eighteen Thirties, Camp Meetings were introduced into this part of the country. They were held largely by the Methodists. Some places in the county are now known as "Camp-grounds." One such place is near Princeton, known as the "Thompson Camp-ground." The "Parks Camp-ground" is about three miles from Scottsboro in the Tennessee Valley. Flat Rock, on Sand Mountain, is another place where Camp Meetings were held. These meetings were held annually and were attended by large

crowds. They were advertised extensively and created a great deal of interest over a wide area. The shed, the stand, the altar with its straw, and the group of tents were all made ready before the day set for the meeting to begin. In some places the shed was built of the brush and limbs of the forest trees.

The day to begin came. The people came from far and near, from hill and woods and valleys,—men, women, children and their dogs. They came by all modes of travel—on foot, on ox-carts, on ox-wagons, on horseback, some in the saddle, some in the lap, some behind, and some in buggies and coaches. The swelling crowd, with the noise of rolling vehicles, the clatter of hoofs, the gay attire, and the interest and excitement was intense and really impressive.

At sunrise, the summons was sounded for a short prayer service. Four sermons a day was the usual number. The best preachers throughout the country were there. The preaching was earnest, if not edifying. The exhortation to sinners was eloquent, the prayers were long and fervent, and the singing was animated and inspiring.

The sermon was closed with the altar crowded with penitent sinners.

Some of these Camp Meetings were held after the Civil war period.

#### MISSIONARY BAPTISTS.

The Missionary Baptist is a branch of the general religious body of Baptists. As has been said before, there had been differences for a number of years, which developed in reference to missionary societies, Sunday schools, education of preachers, and other liberal ideas and practices. The great "split" or division came in 1836. The Missionary faction was not as strong as the Primitives in Jackson County, and for twenty years had only a few churches. In



this period the country was generally prosperous and religion among all denominations was at a low ebb.

In 1857, G. A. Mooring, Charles Roach and a few other Missionary Baptist preachers organized the "Tennessee River Missionary Baptist Association." The Free Will Baptists in the county were merged in this organization. Since the Civil war, the Missionary Church has grown rapidly and is now one of the strongest churches in the county.

Churches in 1876: Bethel, Bellefonte, Cedar Grove, Center, Chestnut Oak, Debos Point, Ebenezer, Liberty, Mt. Ararat, Macedonia, Moores Spring, Pleasant Mount, Sand Mountain, Woodville, Harmony, Deposit, Centennial, and Friendship.

Preachers: G. A. Mooring, J. J. Beeson, Preston Brown, W. J. Couch, A. J. Harden, C. Howell, J. W. Isbell, G. W. Morris, T. J. Wesson, H. H. Horton, Charles Roach, R. H. Taliaferro.

#### EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The historian, of the Episcopal Church in Alabama, Walter C. Whitaker, says: "The first missionary work done in the county was in 1853, by T. A. Morris."

Dr. Cary Gamble says: "The work at Scottsboro was started by Dr. J. M. Bannister, who, at that time, resided at Huntsville."

This work was followed by W. N. Claybrook and J. J. Carnish. Since 1910, Dr. Gamble has had charge of the work.

The church house at Scottsboro was prepared for erection in Huntsville. It was erected in 1878. Prominent members in the Episcopal Church were the Snodgrass family, Dr. J. W. Payne, R. P. Payne, Jesse E. Brown, Dr. Beech, and the Hurts.

Bridgeport became a mission station during the boom days of the town, about 1890. Gene Hopkins

did much for the cause there. Students from Se-wanee, Tennessee College did the preaching.

The Protestant Episcopal Church in America is the daughter of the Church of England, which came from The Roman Catholic Church, and claims Apôstolic succession of their Bishops to the first church in New Testament times. It has a Prayer Book of 39 Articles of Faith that contains the doctrine of the church. The ministers use a prescribed dress in the worship.

#### CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

T. C. Blake, the historian, says: "The Cumberland Presbyterian Church was organized in Dickson County, Tennessee, in a two-room log dwelling, February 4, 1810." The three ministers who organized it were Samuel King, Finis Ewing and Samuel Meadow. This church left the Presbyterian Church, originating in the great revival in Kentucky in 1800. In its government is the Synod, Presbytery and Church; and believes in an educated ministry. It has not grown as rapidly in the country districts as the Methodists or Baptists, but is a close rival in the towns.

The Cumberland Presbyterian Church house in Scottsboro was built in the latter part of 1882, being finished in the spring of 1883. John W. Hill was the contractor. Hamlin Caldwell and Judge John B. Talley each contributed several hundred dollars for its erection.

In 1883, The Jackson Presbytery had more than twenty congregations, and 700 members, in Jackson, Marshall and a portion of Madison and Blount counties. Churches were located at Scottsboro, Goose Pond, Larkinsville, Mount Olive, Pleasant Spring, Stevenson and Pleasant Grove. Preachers: Robert Frazier, E. J. Stockton, C. B. Sanders, John Irving, William Estill, M. G. Milligan, J. J. Burdine,

W. A. Kennamer, F. M. Proctor, P. Clay Word, W. I. Holt, R. D. Shook, W. S. Bridges, J. R. Morris, and M. E. Gabard.

#### OTHER CHURCHES.

The Second Advent Church's membership in the county is not large, but the church had one strong, vigorous preacher in the person of John A. Cargile. He was a noted debater, and had debates with able men of different religious beliefs. He held a debate with J. M. Corn, Baptist, at Friendship Church near Fackler, in January 1876. Another one was held with Prof. John T. Blakemore, President of Andrew's Institute.

Bridgeport, Stevenson and the surrounding territory is the scene of Cargile's chief work.

#### *The Northern Methodists.*

Thomas J. Wood who come here at a very early date, reared a large family, lived a long and useful life, was a Northern Methodist preacher. His home was in Wood's Cove, which bears his name.

In 1869, he purchased the school house of T. J. Windes, situated on the north side of the railroad in the town of Scottsboro. He used this building as a church house. The Baptist, Presbyterian and Southern Methodist denominations all used his house free. This was the first church house in the town of Scottsboro. It was burned in the great fire in February 1881. His eldest son became a preacher; his youngest son, Virgil, became a preacher in the Church of Christ.

The Northern Methodist Church has not grown rapidly, though there are about eight or ten local congregations now in the county. A church is located near Lim Rock, at Winninger, and in Maynard's Cove.

*Presbyterian Church.*

The U. S. A. Presbyterian Church is not large in the county. In 1910, just one hundred years after the Cumberland Presbyterian Church was organized, a strong effort was made to unite this church with the Presbyterian Church. The Cumberland Presbyterian Church at Scottsboro united with the Presbyterian Church.

About the beginning of this century, the Presbyterian Church at Trenton, Alabama, was organized. There is a small church at Bass, though not very active at present.

*The Holiness Church.*

Holiness religion made its appearance in the county about 1910. J. W. Johnson was one of the early preachers; John Taylor and John Wilkie are preachers in that denomination. Their work seems to prosper more among the poorer people on the mountains and in the coves. There are churches in Haigwood precinct, Maynard's Cove, Letcher, and a few other places.

## NEGRO CHURCHES.

There is a negro Methodist Church in Scottsboro.

There are five or six negro Missionary Baptist Churches in the county, located at Scottsboro, Larkinsville, Woodville, Fackler, Martin Town and Stevenson. The first negro Baptist Church house in Scottsboro was burned in the fire in 1881.

Robert Caver, a negro preacher in this county, died of yellow fever near Memphis, in the great epidemic in 1878.

## CHAPTER XVIII.

### Physicians

- THE earliest settlers of the County did not have the services of educated doctors. The people seemed to have had very little use for a professional doctor of medicine. Every community, however, had its own old lady or gentleman who was always ready without fee or reward to prescribe the remedy of barks and roots or to bleed people or pull teeth.

Great-grandfather was a doctor who attended no medical school. He bled and he blistered and vomited and purged his patients, and this was about all he knew to do. He did not have ether or chloroform. Grandfather was a doctor in 1840. He had gone to a medical school for a short time, but he knew nothing of bacteria. His appendicitis patients died of "cramp colic" and "locked bowels". He did not know that tuberculosis was communicable. He had no fever thermometer.

Father was a doctor and graduated from a first class medical school in the Eighteen-seventies. Diphtheria raged and typhoid fever was widely spread. He did not have vaccines for them. Blood transfusion was unknown; he had no X-ray or radium. He did not have local anesthetics. He could not even take blood pressure. He did not know that yellow fever was transmitted by mosquitoes or that there was such a thing as a hookworm.

Doctors of today are graduates from high class medical schools and have a great number and variety of medicines and instruments. They have insulin



for diabetes, liver-extract for pernicious anemia, and serum for scarlet fever, smallpox, tetanus or lock-jaw and other diseases. The doctors of today are located in the larger towns or cities, have an office and do much practice there. Many diseases are treated and nearly all surgical operations are done at a hospital.

The old time physician located in the country treated his patients for all ailments, to which man is heir, from toothache to yellow fever, carrying his medicine with him in saddle-bags as he rode along narrow, rough, muddy roads, fording or swimming a swollen stream to reach his patient. His kindly smile, his wise counsel, and sympathetic nursing did much to relieve suffering and to cheer his sick patient. His influence among the people in the neighborhood was great.

The foregoing may give some idea of the doctors of this county which we may name. We may give a brief sketch of a few of the more familiar ones. If there were any kind of medical society or organization in this county before the Civil war, we have not found any record of it. The County Medical Association was organized in 1868, with Dr. David Sterne, president (—1874). He lived near Bellefonte, where he practiced medicine nearly forty years.

Dr. William Mason (1809-1899) was born in Virginia, came to Jackson County when quite young, and married Miss Elenor Cowan, daughter of Samuel Cowan. He was first cousin of General Winfield Scott. He practiced medicine as long as he lived. Before the Civil war, he lived near Stevenson, where he had a handsome residence, which was destroyed during the war. After the war, he lived in a modest cottage on South Coon Creek near Fabius. He represented this county in the State Legislature in 1838-39. He was a Major during the Florida War, a char-

ter member of Bolivar Lodge of Free Masons, and with Charles Jones, rode to Tuscaloosa on horseback to get the Charter for that lodge. He was highly educated, modest, and reticent. He was buried in Caperton Cemetery.

Dr. P. H. Helton (——1899), at the time of his death, was one of the oldest, wealthiest and most prominent physicians in the county. He was large in stature and was a distinguished man in personal appearance. He was a Missionary Baptist. His wife, Mrs. Emma Helton, erected a Memorial Chapel at Pleasant Spring, in the upper end of the county, costing \$1000 and gave it to the Missionary Baptist Church. This chapel was dedicated in May 1900, by two aged ministers, Preston Brown and James Cox.

Dr. Barton Brooks Smith (——1907), of Larkinsville, was the second son of Brooks Smith, who came from Ireland to Virginia and thence to Jackson County before the land was surveyed. He was one of the doctors who organized the Medical Association. He ran a flouring mill and was a merchant at Larkinsville for some years. He died suddenly, leaving five daughters and two sons.

Dr. Felix R. Grant was one of the leading doctors of Paint Rock Valley. He was never married. He built a nice cedar house, dressing the logs with a plane. He settled on Lick Fork.

Dr. J. O. Robertson (————) was a half-brother of Dr. F. R. Grant, and lived near Hollytree, Paint Rock Valley. He was an expert swimmer and often swam Paint Rock River in his practice of medicine, even in the winter. Dr. Robertson was good to the poor.

Dr. J. H. Boyd (1836-1899) was a noted physician and surgeon. He was a surgeon in the Confederate Army, Company C, Fourth Alabama Volunteer Army of Virginia. He was a Mason. He died of pneumonia, in Scottsboro, and was buried at his old home

in Larkinsville. He leaves four sons, three of whom made doctors.

Dr. Lafayette Derrick (1827-1897) practiced medicine in Old Woodville nearly fifty years. He was never married and at death left a good deal of property. He was a shrewd business man and had good judgment in matters of law. His home is still standing in Old Woodville, having been built long before the Civil war.

Dr. James Knox Polk Rorex (1845-1909) was born in Fayetteville, Tennessee. His father, David Rorex, and Sarah A. (Wilkinson) Rorex came to this county and lived near Stevenson. Dr. Rorex received a common school education at Stevenson. He entered the Confederate Army at fifteen and served in the Sixth Alabama Infantry. Dr. Rorex was in the seven days' battle before Richmond, 1862, at Chancellorsville, Gettysburg and Wilderness, where he was severely wounded. This crippled him for more than five years. After the war, he attended school one year in Stevenson, one year at the University of Virginia, and studied medicine two years at Nashville. He graduated in medicine at Mobile, Alabama, in 1875. He located in Scottsboro and was president of Jackson County Medical Association. He was health officer five years. Dr. Rorex married Miss Ella Lou Whitworth, daughter of Wm. Whitworth.

Dr. Francis Lee Dillard came from Lynchburg, Virginia, to Brownsville, Tennessee, staying there a few months, and then went to Jackson, Mississippi. He moved then to Madison County, Alabama, and there married Miss Elizabeth Diggs Harris. About 1836, they moved to Woodville, Alabama, where he practiced medicine until his death in 1850. He attended medical lectures in Louisville, Kentucky. He owned 1200 acres of land and more than twenty negro slaves. His practice was extensive and suc-

cessful. Jesse E. Brown married his granddaughter.

Dr. George W. Foster, of Stevenson, was born December 9, 1856. in this county. He attended William and Mary Austin Academy at Stevenson, studied medicine with Dr. William Mason and at Vanderbilt University, and graduated in 1882. The next year he married Miss Jennie Graham, and located at Stevenson. His father, T. Boyd Foster, was born in Virginia and came to Jackson County when young. He was county surveyor for nearly forty years.

Dr. Elisha L. Lee (1840—) was born near Dunlap, Tennessee, and was educated at the academy at Pikeville, Tennessee. He moved to this county in 1869, and began the practice of medicine. He now resides (March 1935) in Bridgeport. He was in the drug business in Bridgeport from 1879 to 1889, in partnership with Dr. W. K. Spiller. He has been engaged in banking and farming. He married Miss Millie A. Bean in 1875. His father was Guilford Lee, his grandfather was John Lee, born in Virginia in 1789, and his great-grandfather was William Lee. The family is related to General Robert E. Lee. He is a Methodist and a Mason.

Dr. James M. Parks (1820-1900) practiced medicine for many years, residing in Scottsboro. He was in the Seminole war. Dr. Parks was an Episcopalian.

Dr. Richard W. Jones (1821-1886) was born in Virginia and came to this county when a boy. He graduated at West Point. Dr. Jones was Captain of Company F, known as the Jackson County Hornets, in John R. Coffey's regiment in the Mexican war.

Dr. Jack and Dr. David B. McCord were brothers. The latter served sixteen years as county treasurer. He was a very prominent man in the affairs of the county.

There were many other physicians who served well the people of the county, but we do not have the space or record to give it here.

## CHAPTER XIX.

### Lawyers and Lodges

FOR many years after the County was organized, we had quite a bit of litigation, both civil and criminal, and the judges covered rather large circuits, traveling from county seat to county seat by carriage or on horseback. Many lawyers rode the circuit with the court. Some of the ablest lawyers had a large practice in several different counties.

It shall be our purpose to name and give a brief sketch of only the more prominent lawyers. A large majority of the leading lawyers of the Tennessee Valley in northern Alabama have practiced in the courts at Bellefonte or Scottsboro. Some of those lawyers who resided in the county and practiced at Bellefonte are: Benjamin Snodgrass, John H. Norwood, W. H. Norwood, John W. Parks, Hugh Lawson Parks, Henry C. Bradford, Nelson Robinson, H. C. Cowan.

Hugh Lawson Parks, the son of W. D. Parks and Lucinda (Kirby) Parks, was a brilliant young lawyer. He died in 1869, at the age of 36.

Henry C. Bradford, the son of General Bradford of Huntsville, was a fine criminal lawyer and noted as a "silver-tongued orator." He saw service in two wars and died in Scottsboro, April 1879, at the age of 50. He entered the Mexican war as a volunteer, was made Lieutenant at the age of 18.

He raised Company H, in Jackson County, which was a part of the Fifty-fifth Alabama regiment, of which he was Captain. He was soon promoted to Colonel and served with distinction until the end of the war.



William Logan Martin was born and reared in Madison County. He graduated in law at Lebanon, Tennessee, came to Scottsboro in the latter part of 1873, and practiced law until he was made Attorney General, March 18, 1889. After leaving this county he made his home in Montgomery. He was elected as Representative to the Legislature which met in 1907, and was made Speaker of the House of Representatives. He died rather suddenly at the age of 57, while the Legislature was in session. He was a good lawyer.

Judge John B. Tally was born in this county, near Bass, grew to manhood and became a lawyer. He moved to Scottsboro in March 1873, to practice law. He was elected Probate Judge in August, 1880, while he was yet a young man. After serving his term of six years, he was elected as Circuit Judge in 1886, defeating ex-Judge W. J. Haralson of DeKalb County, who bolted the nomination made at the convention. He was impeached and did not serve the entire six years, because of his connection with the Skelton-Ross killing. He later was elected to the Alabama State Senate. After this service he practiced his chosen profession in Scottsboro until his death.

Some other lawyers who practiced in the courts at Scottsboro are: Lemuel G. Mead, Jasper J. Jones, Lawson C. Coulson, W. D. Campbell, R. W. Clopton, Joseph J. Gregory, Sam W. Tate, Richard Hunt.

#### JESSE EDWARD BROWN (1845-1905)

Without any disparagement of the abilities of any other lawyer who ever lived in this county, the writer would say that Jesse E. Brown was the greatest one. He was born in Caney Cove, Jackson County, Alabama. He enlisted at first in the First Arkansas Infantry at the age of 16. After the death of his older brother at Shiloh, and on account of his youth and no other soldier in this regiment from this county, he was discharged.

At once he enlisted in the Fourth Alabama Cavalry, Company C, which was commanded by Captain Frank B. Gurley, where he served as a private. He was severely wounded in the battle of Noonday Creek, to the right of Kennesaw Mountain, Georgia, by a minnie-ball through the joint of his right knee, on account of which wound the army surgeons on the next day in the field hospital amputated his leg six inches above the knee.

After the war, by the kindness of an uncle, he went to school at Georgetown, Kentucky, later finishing the law course at Lebanon University. He served in the Legislature, 1872-73, and was elected as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention in 1875. He was owner and editor of *The Progressive Age* a few years, but his greatest work was in the practice of law.

The lawyers now residing in the County are: Milo Moody, John F. Proctor and Son, Captain John Snodgrass, John K. Thompson, Harold Foster, H. C. Hayes, all of Scottsboro, and John Hackworth of Bridgeport.

#### VIRGIL BOULDIN

It is not our purpose to write of men living, but we shall here make an exception. Virgil Bouldin was born in Paint Rock Valley, Jackson County, October 20, 1866. In 1881, he went to Burritt College, at Spencer, Tennessee, for one year, and then to the Winchester Normal four years, graduating in the spring of 1886. He taught school one year in Jackson County and one year in Texas. Returning to Scottsboro in 1889, he began the practice of law, taking an active part in politics and religion. He was elected to the Legislature in 1896, and became the author of the Road Law for the county. He was appointed to the State Supreme Court in 1923, and has been elected twice since and is serving his second term on the State Supreme Court, with honor and satisfaction. He is a Democrat and a Missionary Baptist.

## MASONIC LODGES

THE MASONS were the first to organize in the county. There were a few lodges organized sometime before the Civil war. The first lodge of Masons was organized at Bellefonte. The Lodge at Bolivar was organized very soon thereafter. In 1868, there were five Lodges in the county as follows: Bellefonte No. 82; Bolivar No. 127; Paint Rock Lodge No. 274; Larkinsville Lodge No. 277, and Holly Grove Lodge. All these lodges held a big meeting at Bolivar, June 24, 1868. The next year, on June 24, 1869, they met with the Paint Rock Lodge, at a Big Spring about halfway between Woodville and Paint Rock. It was at this meeting that the great fight between the Woodalls and the Whitecottons occurred. In this fight Jim and Hy Whitecotton were killed. As the Whitecottons were turbulent, dangerous men, the people of the Woodville community felt greatly relieved at knowing these men had been killed.

Scottsboro Masonic Lodge No. 359 was organized in August of this same year, and the annual Big Meeting was held here the next year, June 24, 1870. Dr. T. T. Cotnam was the orator on this occasion. This meeting was to celebrate the "anniversary of St. John, the Baptist, who was an eminent Christian patron and whose memory is held in rich and sacred remembrance."

A new hall was erected in Scottsboro, to be occupied by the three orders of Masons, Odd Fellows and Pale Faces. The lower or basement story which was to be used for school purposes, was ready for use January 1, 1871. The right for general church purposes on Saturdays and Sundays was reserved.

Many prominent men of the county joined either the Masons or Odd Fellows or both.

## ODD FELLOWS

Like the Masons, the Odd Fellows had been organized in the county before the Civil war. In June 1869, the Odd Fellows Lodge No. 60, at Bellefonte, was reorganized. It was called Barcelona Independent Order. Officers were: John F. Patterson, John Snodgrass, G. W. Story, W. H. Robinson.

Big Coon Lodge No. 75, I. O. O. F., was organized September 1873, by S. G. Grimmett. Some of the members of this Lodge were: G. W. Allen, J. L. Gentry, J. F. Potts, D. N. Patterson, J. D. Patterson, David Tate, Wm. Matthews, Wiley Matthews.

Fackler Lodge No. 76, I. O. O. F., was organized in September 1874, by Jesse L. Potts, Lewis T. Webb, A. M. Holland and James M. Bryant.

Stevenson Lodge No. 77, I. O. O. F., was instituted in September 1874, by S. G. Grimmett. Officers, George W. Thorton, N. G.; John G. Matthews, V. G.; F. M. McMahan, Sec., and Leroy Rash, Treas.

A Lodge had been organized in Paint Rock Valley in May 1872.

Near the close of the Nineteenth century, an I. O. O. F. Lodge was organized in Woodville, but did not remain but a few years.

In February 1910, an Odd Fellows Lodge was organized at Pisgah, on Sand Mountain. In other parts of the county are Odd Fellows Lodges.

## CHAPTER XX.

### Newspapers

THE question as to when the first newspaper was published in Jackson County, has not yet been answered. Who was its publisher and the name it bore, likewise, are undetermined. One has claimed the first paper was published in 1834, but the author does not find any evidence to sustain that claim. On the other hand, after long, patient and diligent search, the first mention in any official records found is in 1839: "Notice of mortgage sale, published in a newspaper at Bellefonte, Alabama, in 1839," was made by Moses Maples.

Ex-Governor Samuel B. Moore delivered a Fourth of July oration at Bellefonte in 1835. Resolutions were passed on the death of Revolutionary soldiers, which were ordered published in the Huntsville paper, but makes no mention of any paper in Jackson County. So it seems that the first paper published in the county was sometime between 1835 and 1839.

It is said that J. F. Green and brother published the *North Alabama Register* at Bellefonte. When they began and how long they continued to publish this paper is still a mooted question. J. F. Green sold his interest in the paper to J. W. Madden. The paper flourished for a time, but for some reason, was finally discontinued.

R. C. T. Gill published the *Bellefonte Democrat* (It has been called the *Jackson County Democrat*) in 1846. He continued his paper up to a few years before the War, when he sold it to Frazier and Jones. They published the paper as the *Bellefonte Era* until



the coming of the Federal Army under General O. M. Mitchell, in April 1862. He destroyed the plant. Since that date no paper has been published at Bellefonte.

In 1868, P. J. Smith and Colonel A. Snodgrass began the publication in Scottsboro of *The Jackson County Herald*. This was the first paper published in the county after the Civil war. Just three months later Smith withdrew from publishing *The Jackson County Herald*. He went to Lebanon, DeKalb County, and began the publication of *The Republican Union*.

*The Jackson County Herald* was changed to *The Southern Industrial Herald*, November 26, 1868. It kept that name until the close of the year 1871. The name of the paper was then changed to *The Alabama Herald*. About 16 years later the name of the paper was again changed to *The Scottsboro Herald*. The paper had been edited all these years by A. Snodgrass. The paper discontinued publication in 1887. The outfit was sold to Mr. Brindley, of the *Will's Valley Post*.

#### THE SCOTTSBORO CITIZEN

In September 1877, *The Scottsboro Citizen* was established by James Armstrong, as Editor and Proprietor. He was a splendid newspaper man. The paper prospered and was widely read until his health failed. The paper was consolidated with *The Progressive Age*, in May 1911. Mr. Armstrong, a native of Lawrence County, Alabama, came here when a small lad. He held offices in the Alabama Legislature and was door-keeper in Congress during one of Cleveland's administration.

Stevenson gets its first newspaper in 1868. Thomas D. Osborne and Crawford published a paper called *The Stevenson New Era*. They moved it to Jasper, Tennessee, September 1870. This was a four-page weekly paper.

*The Stevenson Chronicle* was established in January 1887. J. H. Vaught and J. H. Gregory were the editors in 1903. In 1912, W. J. Rorex was editor and proprietor. In August of this year, C. D. Cargile was made the publisher of this paper. After two years, the plant was sold to R. H. McKinley of Jasper, Tennessee. This ended the newspaper business in Stevenson. For twenty-eight years the paper had had a storm-tossed voyage on the sea of journalism. There was not enough business at Stevenson to support a paper. The editors were good men and had tried hard to publish a clean and fair newspaper.

On the death of Mr. James Armstrong in 1911, *The Scottsboro Citizen* suspended publication.

About 1912, George Sehorn and brother, W. C. Sehorn, bought The Deloach Manufacturing Company's printing plant of Bridgeport, moved it to Scottsboro and began the publication of *The Citizen*. It was discontinued after a few years.

*The Jackson Union News* was established January 1, 1906. It was published by the Union Publishing Company, Thos. J. Kennedy was editor and manager. This paper was published in the interest of the Farmers' Union who had become strong in the county. As Mr. Kennedy was made Secretary of the State Farmers' Union, he moved to Birmingham, Alabama. The paper was merged with *The Progressive Age*.

H. M. Henderson started a paper in Scottsboro, known as *The Jackson County Advertiser*. It lived only a few months.

The history of Bridgeport's newspaper will be found in the chapter on that city.

#### THE PROGRESSIVE AGE

In the Spring of 1873, there was formed a combination between the *Stevenson New Era*, published by Thos. D. Osborne, and a small paper published at

Scottsboro by Chas. M. Gardner, called *The Star*. This paper flourished a few years as *The New Era*. It then passed into the hands of B. F. Shook. In 1886, W. T. Boyle bought it and started the publication of *The Progressive Age*. He sold his paper, *The Progressive Age*, to Jesse E. Brown in 1895. His son, Lawrence E. Brown, at the age of 18 years, managed the paper until he sold it in January 1909, to Mark L. Tucker, a native of Bibb County, Alabama, an experienced newspaper man. In a few months *The Jackson Union News* was merged in *The Age*. *The Progressive Age*, just before the death of James Armstrong in 1911, took over *The Citizen's* subscription list. Mr. Tucker continued the publication of *The Progressive Age* until he sold it in 1919, to James S. Benson. Mr. Benson still edits the paper, though it is owned by a stock company. The equipment of the paper has been increased greatly since its beginning.

#### JACKSON COUNTY SENTINEL

In 1929 *The Jackson County Sentinel* was established, with stock owned by forty Jackson County citizens. F. C. Russell, of Limestone County, was employed as editor, but his services were not entirely satisfactory. The managers employed P. W. Campbell, a well known writer and newspaper man, as editor, who is making a success of the paper.

## CHAPTER XXI.

### Education

THE early settlers of Jackson County were not without some means of education, for the grant of the sixteenth section in each township for local schools afforded a small foundation upon which to build.

The results were for many years not very satisfactory or what one might have expected. The gift of this sixteenth section was to the township and not to the State, and if the section was fertile and would sell or rent for a high price, the schools located in that township received sufficient funds to run a free school a few months. On the other hand, if the sixteenth section happened to be located on lands which were rough, ridge or poor soil, then the income was quite small, and the zeal for education of the people was not enough to make up a sufficient fund for schools. There were here, as in other parts of the State, two classes of settlers; the more wealthier planter, who lived in the valleys, and the poorer mountaineer. This latter class had neither time nor facilities for education. Their social advantages were nil, and their interest in education was not much better than their social condition. Life was one continuous burden of hardships, want, and toil.

Early in the history of the State, a law was enacted to provide for the election of three trustees in each township, whose duties were similar to those of a much later date. The County Judge, with the trustees, handled the school funds and paid the teachers. The State school system was not established until 1854.

In February 1856, an Act was passed creating the office of county superintendent of education. This was a change of vital importance to the schools and was an epoch in the history of education. The State had begun two years previously to appropriate money to supplement the sixteenth section funds. The appropriation was \$100,000 for the whole state.

In early times, the school teacher was usually a crippled man, who was not able to do manual labor, a man who had some eccentric disposition, with a limited ability to figure, and could read and write a little, yet one who could use the "rod of correction" briskly. He came into a community to make up a school, and after seeing a few of the leaders, would announce that school would open next Monday in the little neighborhood church house. The school day began just after sunup and lasted until near the setting of the same. His rules were strict, his word was law, and harsh discipline was his chief aim of success. He boarded among his pupils as that was part of his pay. He also took furs, skins and a little money for his work.

In the village or small town, the teacher was better qualified and the course of study was enlarged to include grammar, elocution and a little Latin. Later, ladies began to teach and music became part of the course of study.

In the prosperous days of slavery, before the Civil War, when all manual labor was done by negro slaves, the sons and daughters of planters were educated in the Arts and Classics. After finishing the academic course here, they went to some college or university to complete their education, before taking up law, medicine or politics as a profession in life. This condition existed when the great and terrible Civil war began, which stopped all efforts to instruct the young in schools, as quickly as vanishes the mist before the rising sun. Many persons born in the



fifties and sixties were deprived of any education, except that received in the school of "hard-knocks," hard work, and self-denial.

When the soldier came home from the War, he found his home in ashes, his fences gone, his slaves free, his stock killed, his Confederate money worthless, but he did not sit down and wring his hands in despair. He went to work to build anew. Of course, education was neglected for ten or fifteen years, but gradually the free school house was again planted on the hilltop. For three years after the war, Jackson County drew no money from the State, though she finally drew it.

There were a few pay schools in the towns in the year 1868. Larkinsville had a five-month's school, taught by Mr. E. A. Russell and Mr. L. A. Grubbs. The school at Scottsboro was taught by a young man named T. G. Windes, assisted by Mrs. Bettie E. Mills who died in Madison County in the Fall of 1869. Mr. Windes sold his school house to Thos. J. Wood, in June 1869, and went to Jasper, Tennessee, to teach.

This house was on the north side of the railroad and was used as the first church house in Scottsboro.

The next school in Scottsboro was taught by Mrs. Julia A. Shelton. "Scottsboro Male and Female Institute," as the school was designated, was taught by Matt M. Robinson and Mrs. Julia Shelton, during the years 1870 and 1871. The tuition was \$2 to \$2.50 per month. A. B. Mayhem taught in the Brick Church in 1872. The next two years Prof. J. Rosamond, Principal, and Miss Ella Whitworth, Assistant, taught there.

Miles Moody and John Snodgrass were trustees.

The schools in Jackson County received \$1.75 per capita in 1874, of public funds. What a change from the present time!

Prof. W. G. Mentrose taught a school on Sand Mountain in 1873. About this time and a little later,

there were other schools taught on the Mountain by Osborn Durham, C. B. Roach and Ezekiel Stringer.

Schools were taught at Larkinsville, Woodville, Bellefonte and in Paint Rock Valley.

Doran's Cove could boast of a good two-teacher school.

In 1875, through the generosity of Mr. Austin, Stevenson built the William and Emma Austin College. It was a college only in name, yet, it did a great work in educating the boys and girls in this county. It drew support from as far as Woodville. It was situated in the eastern part of the town limits. The building was beautifully situated on a nice campus at the foothills of the Cumberland Mountains. Some of the best teachers in the county were employed here. It was reorganized and enlarged in 1903. With a faculty of seven teachers it did good work for a few years, until Stevenson built the fine new High School. The Grammar School is now taught in this building.

The Scottsboro school had at its head, for the years 1875, '76 and '77, Prof. A. E. Russell, who taught in the brick church. Miss Annie Scruggs taught the primary grades in the T. J. Wood's building on the north side of the railroad. It was said of Mr. Russell when he died at Princeton, Paint Rock Valley in 1882, "that he had taught eighty-one sessions of five months duration." Other teachers who taught in the Scottsboro school were: C. B. Roach, W. G. Mentrose, N. H. Scruggs, C. W. Brown, Miss Fannie Ledbetter, Wallace Gross, J. M. Hopkins, S. H. Bartlett, and Miss Sue Snodgrass.

Scottsboro Academy at Scottsboro was incorporated February 16, 1883, by an Act of the Legislature, consolidating "Scott Male and Female Institute" and "Scottsboro Building Association."

James M. Bledsoe, a native Alabamian, having taught at the Winchester Normal and Mary Sharpe

College, came to Scottsboro in 1889 and accepted the presidency of the Baptist College, known as the Scottsboro College and Normal School, from February 1889 to June 1893. Teachers were: Miss Maude Terrill, Miss Rosa Palmer, Mrs. Gabard, Miss Jane, Mr. Terrill, Ben Gowen, Dr. and Mrs. Baereky from Holland, and Miss Julia Brandon. Music teachers: Miss Amanda Hurt, Miss Anna Skelton, Miss Stella Moody, Mrs. Ewing and Miss Lillis Bledsoe.

From September 1893 to June 1894, the teachers were, Mr. Coleman, Principal; J. M. McIver, Miss Allie McIver, Mrs. Ivy, Miss Ielia Watts and Mr. Dunston. Teachers in the Tri-State Normal, from September 1894 to June 1898, were, J. T. Rose, Principal; O. J. Dodge, F. M. Gregg, J. M. McIver and Mr. Dunston. Miss Sally McIver and Miss Herbert taught music.

The Methodists ran the school from September 1898 to January 1899. They had as teachers, Mr. Shoemaker, Principal; Miss Wilson, Miss Seay and Mr. Linn. The school was run as The Baptist Institute, September 1899 to June 1904. They had J. C. Dawson as Principal. From September 1905 to June 1908, M. L. Yarbough was Principal. The school did splendid work while Prof. Bledsoe was principal. It did good work while Prof. Rose and the other Ohio teachers were here, but it seemed it could never succeed financially. When the Legislature passed the Act, August 7, 1907, creating High Schools, and the people of Scottsboro saw strong efforts being made by Section, Dutton and Bridgeport to get the High School located in these places, they bought the school property in Scottsboro and secured the location of the County High School in the town. The school has had as Principals: J. R. Ward, J. A. Reams, J. H. Huffstuter, R. P. Wills,

Woods, De La Rue, Dickinson, Hood, Willburn, Cameron and I. J. Brawder.

Many new improvements have been added; the school has grown fast and the future outlook for the continued success of the school is bright.

Many other schools of the county were being taught by a more efficient class of teachers than had been in this work. We can name, A. A. and J. A. Watson, who taught near Aspel; Mrs. Minerva Russel, Miss Idella Brown, daughter of Judge M. P. Brown, both taught near Woodville. Joe B. Sherrill, who taught at Dodsonville, Woodville and Lim Rock, published his book in 1884, "Sherrill's Short Methods" in Arithmetic.

John J. Beeson opened his school at Pisgah in February 1881, which has developed into the splendid school at that place now.

The schools were getting better. Teachers were required to take examinations on Hygiene and Physiology to teach. These examinations were first given by the County Superintendent, in August 1886.

#### GREEN ACADEMY

Green Academy was built and run by the Missionary Association of the Congregational Church, with headquarters in New York City. In the summer of 1890, this Association began the building of a two-room school house and a cottage for a residence for the teachers, on top of Cumberland Mountain overlooking Peter's Cove near Woodville. The school grew and was well patronized by the best people in this county and the adjoining counties of Madison and Marshall. The school building had to be enlarged and more teachers were added after the first year. The work done in the school was thorough, and the cost to the pupil was only \$1 per month. Any one finishing the work here was prepared to enter college and make good. A majority of the teachers came from the North.



The first teachers, Mr. Mersene Elon Sloan and sister, Miss Emma Sloan, came from Minnesota and began teaching in October 1890. After two years' work here, their places were taken by Herbert E. Sargeant and wife, of St. Paul, Minnesota, and the Misses Libby and Edith Hatfield of Ohio. The four years this faculty stayed here the school did fine work.

In September 1897, Prof. A. D. Luethi of Chicago, Miss Jessie M. House of Sangatuck, Michigan, and Miss Lida Steele of Oberlin, Ohio, began teaching and remained for three years. They were followed as teachers here by Miss Flora M. Crane of Brooklyn, Maine, Principal, and Miss Eugene Hepler of Iowa, Miss F. A. Jackson of Florida, and Miss Louise Stone of Iowa.

Prof. Peek and wife came in the Fall of 1901. By this time other schools were keen rivals for patronage and Green Academy never did as well as at first.

Other teachers at this place were: Mrs. M. R. Pake, Miss Annie Phelps, John Jones of Princeton, J. B. Cagle of Sand Mountain, G. Wallace Gasque, Miss Ada Brayton, J. M. Trosper, Miss Lila Broadfield and a few whose names are not now remembered.

There has been no school here for years. Even the buildings are all gone. The school bell, the best one in the county, has been taken down and is now used on a little church house some two miles from the place where it had been heard and heeded by so many fine students. This bell, costing about \$350, was given to the school by Mr. Steele and has been heard for a distance of ten miles or more.

Here is a partial list of some of the students of Green Academy, who have made good in the affairs of life:

George S. Gillis went to the Spanish-American war in 1898. He entered as a private and was promoted



to First Lieutenant in the Philippines in 1908. He was in the World War and was made Brigadier General of the 79th Division. After returning, he was Commander of Presidio Reservation in California. He was in the army from 1898 to 1922. He was wounded twice and gassed in France. Mr. Gillis was regarded as one of the best signal corpsmen in France. He died in 1922, in San Francisco, and was buried there.

Robert I. Gillis was Captain in Quartermaster's Corps in France. He made his home in Williamsburg, Kentucky, for some time. He was superintendent of Buffalo Mining Co., Buffalo, Tenn., four years after the war, and is now at Tuscon, Arizona.

Henry Gillis attended law school in Louisville, Ky., and is now a leading lawyer in Williamsburg, Ky.

Mabel, Roxie and Elizabeth Gillis are teachers.

William Hayes is in Ordinance Division of Army and Navy Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

Leslie H. Woodall is Superintendent of Southern Railroad at Birmingham, Alabama.

Sanford D. Lee was Supervisor of Vicksburg and Memphis Division of Louisiana Railroad. He lost his life in the flood of 1927, in the Mississippi River.

Wilbur Coe was Colonel in the Army, acting Adjutant General. Ollie Crawley was Captain of Infantry, U. S. Army.

Andrew Houk, teacher and preacher, is located at Birmingham, Alabama. Harvey Houk is a preacher and was pastmaster at Gurley, Ala., one term.

Will Ed Stephens was a physician. Nellie Coe was a missionary to Africa. Charles B. Kennamer was three times District Attorney and is now Federal Judge, Montgomery, Ala. Thos. J. Kennamer has served as U. S. Marshal three terms in Birmingham, Alabama. J. B. Woodall, a successful merchant, planter, banker and business man, is located at

Huntsville, Ala. R. E. Chandler was a successful merchant in New Decatur until death.

Hugh Walker is a lawyer in Anniston, Alabama. Andrew and Sam Skelton were in the World War. They were in the front line at the Armistice. Both met King George, who commended them in a letter to their father.

The writer is glad to say he attended Green Academy two years and received the first certificate the school gave for completing the course in 1894.

William Shelton went West and made a splendid record. Nelson Cowart did likewise.

Others who attended this school and made good are: Ezekiel Kennedy, Robert Pricise, Edna Coe, Ed Broyles, Mrs. Leona Woodall Merritt, Mrs. Eleanor Lindsay Boyd, Mrs. Laura Wilson Battles, William Lilly, John, Richard and Nellie Cochran, Nellie Frazier, Felix and Calvin Rousseau, William J. Whitaker, Samuel Wininger, Charley Manning, Robert A., Albert, Rufus, Perry, Arthur and Miss Della Hall. The latter graduated in 1903. Ed Clark, Martin Cobb, Robert McCamey, Robert Gross, Will, Hugh and Pliny Jackson, Miss Eva Jackson, W. S. Kennamer, Robert L. and Will G. Jones, W. H. Butler, Mrs. Julia Butler Kennamer, Low Goosby, James S. Swaims, Will Money, Ben Isbell, Ernest Wann, Will Chandler, Robert L. Hall, Clay Evans, Mrs. Bassie Evans Peters, Ben W. Kennamer, Mrs. Susie Wilson Ballard, Miss Lena Huggins, Joe, John and Charley Lewis, Miss Jonny Woods, Ida Walker, Ernest Kirby, Martha, John and Oscar Allen, Sam and Mollie Maples, Cornelia and Columbus Owen, Elijah Potter, Harvey Kennamer, Will Evans and Mrs. Gillie (Cornelison) Bishop.

Many changes have been made in the school laws within the last twenty years. The qualifications to teach have been raised, the school equipment has been improved greatly and many new and modern

school buildings have been built. The pay of the teachers has also been increased.

The teachers of the county voted at Langston in 1906, that they should be paid according to Grade: "Third Grade, not more than \$30 per month; Second Grade, not more than \$45; First Grade, not more than \$60 per month." The County Superintendent's pay was \$900 for the year 1907. A county board of education, consisting of five members, was created. They were given power to elect the County Superintendent of Education. This law was passed in 1915, but the Legislature in 1927 changed the law, allowing the County Superintendent to be elected by the vote of the people as formerly.

The compulsory attendance law and the local school-tax amendment measures were adopted in 1915. The school revenue has been increased greatly since the Grand Jury's report in 1910, on Public Schools. It says: "We find our Public Schools in a flourishing condition and reasonably well attended. We find the public school fund for the county, including the general school fund, poll tax and special tax, to be approximately \$10,400, and with this amount judiciously expended we find that our county is to be congratulated on her public school system."

The Grand Jury reported in 1909 that, 40% of school children do not attend school, 35% of those who enter attend less than 10 days.

With many of our children being carried to school in buses, and with the amount of money now spent for education, the coming generation should be prepared for life's battles.

## CHAPTER XXII.

# Life In The Gay Nineties

### ENTERTAINMENT

THE most popular entertainment on Sunday afternoons for young or unmarried people was taking walks on the railroad track, or driving a span of beautifully matched horses to the surrey or top buggy.

There were few trains at that time and the county boasted of only a few brick sidewalks and no concrete, so it is very evident why the railroad track was selected for walks of leisure.

The highways were only chunks of limestone and mud holes. There were no rock crushing machines, and the best roads were made of rocks broken with pick and hammer. After a drive over this road there was no need for coaxing an appetite or sleep. You simply ate and slept from fatigue. A well-matched span of horses to a top buggy for the young couple to use on Sunday afternoons or holidays was the envy of every other couple who saw them, and gossip as to the envied couple was not unusual. Very often, on account of these sometimes impassable roads, a pair of mules was used instead of horses to pull the surrey.

Only one horse or one mule was more often used for the top buggy.

The jolts and bumps of the vehicle were enough to mash a nose or some other part of the anatomy and were excuse enough for being in each other's arms. After a sudden plunge forward into a mud puddle, which made your best clothes look as speckled as a guinea, apologies were made then and there for an offense that could not be avoided.

Horseback riding was very popular and was the surest way of getting there and back again, just as the Ford car later became the most popular automobile for the same reason. The ladies wore long black riding skirts which must be long enough to hide the feet when sitting on a side-saddle, and were gathered full around the waste. When riding fast, or on a windy day, these skirts gave a balloon effect which was not unbecoming for the petite young Miss, who usually had on a white shirt waist with choker collar, and a sailor hat. If she had on a jacket it was usually of the basque type.

The gentlemen wore leggings with their best clothes while riding and were always gallant and thoughtful of the ladies. He helped her to the horse-block, which was usually a scaffold built to near the height of a horse's back, with steps leading up from one side. He then led the horse to the block for the lady to sit on her saddle. Every home boasted of a horse-block and a hitching post. Many horses were so trained they walked to the horse-block, stopped and turned so their side touched the block, and waited for their mistress.

#### SEEING THE TRAIN PASS

Another favorite pastime for Sunday was "going to the depot to see the train go by." The platforms to these depots were built some four feet high, and a full platform for this occasion was to be expected by the agents of the railroads.

The coaches of these trains were unscreened, and coal burned in the engine sent flying cinders to be scattered over seats and traveler alike. Fortunate were those who arrived at their destination with grimy, smutty complexions, without a cinder in the eye.

If you were a passenger, you would probably see someone on the depot platform or side-track who



was there to wave at a friend passing through. After all, neither was sure of seeing the other for the heavy smoke and stinging cinders.

A usual farewell was: "Don't stick your head out the window." There was nothing unusual about arriving at your destination hatless—and this was before the modern collegiate bare head. One coach of these trains carried passengers going to Texas—or the West. Among these invariably you would see one or more families with babies and baskets. The largest basket contained lunch enough to last two or three days for all, and consisted of fried chicken, home boiled ham, biscuits, half-moon pies, and cakes. The men of these families would always at lunch time duck between the high backs of the red plush seats for a moment and come up smelling of real whiskey. They bought bananas from the newsboys for the women and children, then all were jolly and happy, telling jokes while partaking of the refreshments from the baskets. The smell of the mixture of bananas and whiskey always recalls these through coaches of the Gay Nineties.

Some of the agents were working on a commission basis, and all friends were solicited to buy mileage books for traveling purposes, and to have freight shipped collect in order to increase their pay, which was made at the end of each month by a paymaster of the road who traveled in a special car designated as the "Pay Car", pulled by an engine all its own. This was before banks and checks were used in business here. Nothing but cash was used on the Pay Train, which never failed to create excitement upon arrival in these Jackson County towns, and made the Agents popular in a business and social way.

Harry Hill was Agent at Paint Rock, P. H. Woodall at Woodville, Jess Isbell at Lim Rock, John Canterbury at Larkinsville, Spillman Cowley at Scottsboro,

George Chapman at Hollywood, and R. B. Ellis at Stevenson. Harry Hill still occupies this one time popular office.

### SINGINGS

All day singings, led by a teacher of sight reading music, without any voice training, was another popular form of entertainment in the county. Song-books with shaped notes were of more general use and the *Do, Me, Sol, Do.* were taken as tones for Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass, from a tuning fork which gave the first tone in the scale of *C*, called *Do*, as a basis to get other tones for sight singing. Singing schools lasted only two or three weeks, but were jolly occasions for the young people, and there a courtship started between some boy and girl, that culminated in a wedding.

The Parlor Organ was often used as an excuse for singings in the home, and a whole community would sometimes gather and sing popular songs and hymns for an hour or two around some pretty young lady who pumped that Parlor Organ with her feet and led in the singing while she played.

Often her eyes roamed to some young man, with a smile of understanding, while he fanned and turned her music. This lasted until most of those present had coupled off and strolled for a walk, the swing or to get a fresh pitcher or bucket of water.

"In the Shade of the Old Apple Tree," "After the Ball," "She Was Bred in Old Kentucky," "There'll Be a Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight," were popular songs in the Gay Nineties. Often married people as well as young folks sang and played "Little Brown Jug."

During the Christmas vacation, while the young ladies and young men were home from college for the holidays, the square dance, accompanied by a "fiddle or two," was often the chief pastime. There

was not that familiarity between the young ladies and the young men then as we see now. The form of "Notes" from the young gentlemen to the young ladies read: "May I escort you to the dance tonight" or "to the party", or "May I have the pleasure of escorting you to church Sunday." The answer was just as formal and read: "Your company to the dance will be accepted", or more often, "I regret you cannot escort me to the dance on account of a previous engagement."

#### HOME FURNITURE

During the Nineties a few self-serving tables—tables with revolving centers six inches or more high, holding the food, with service plates on a narrow rim around the edge, were in use. As screen doors and windows had not come into use, a brush of gorgeous peafowl feathers, or strip paper was often used to keep away the flies while a meal was being served.

Heavy antique furniture was given to negroes or set in the back yard to be split for kindling, to make way for more modern furniture. Trundle beds used for the children and rolled under high four-post beds during the day were being replaced with cots.

#### SCHOOLS

Three schools in the county at this date kept boarding students, the Austin College (a college only in name) at Stevenson, Green Academy and The Tri-State Normal School at Scottsboro. The latter school had lectures occasionally as, "Ben Hur", Bob Taylor's lecture, "The Fiddle and the Bow", and Chautauqua visits.

#### COVERED BRIDGES

Have you ever seen one? They were common in Jackson County in the Gay Nineties, and the young couples seemed to think they were built for them alone. They were often walled on each side with

weather boarding and open only at the ends. This was a rendezvous for gamblers and drunkards, and occasionally a duel would be fought at some covered bridge. These bridges were especially convenient if caught while riding in a rainstorm and many horses have been whipped to full speed to reach the bridge to avoid a drenching.

### THE TOWN WELL

The town well was usually in the center of the business district and the gossiping place for loafers and merchants when in need of a fresh bucket of water, and others who depended on the town well for water. Unoffending jokes told and pranks played in town often were planned while merchants or others were pumping or drawing with a windlass and rope, a bucket of fresh water.

On one occasion a prank was played in the town of Woodville that came near leading to serious trouble. A young man living six miles out in the country rode his mule to town, hitched to a post near the town well with his chain halter and went into a store. While he was shopping, some mischevious parties got a lock and locked his mule to the hitching post. When he come out to get on his mule to go home, and discovered what had been done, he proceeded to threaten the parties who did it, in language not suitable to print. Of course no one would tell him who did it, but the writer has always had his opinion as to who locked the mule to the post, but for prudent reasons has never thought it best to tell.

A tantalizing question or conversation planned before going to the well by two young business men, waiting for an audience, was to be expected. One of these might be, "Are you invited to the wedding?" "Yes, are you going?" which never failed to arouse listeners to questions, and often had to be answered with, "Oh, it's a secret to be kept for a while." Oc-

asionally these two men would be surprised with, "Yes, I'm going" and would proceed to give information about some wedding to their surprise.

### THE NEW WOMAN

The "New Woman" was being discussed on the streets and in business houses, and husbands with fear and trembling expected to take orders instead of giving them, as had been their unquestioned and lordly right.

Bicycling became the craze, and was taken up by women equally with men, regardless of full length skirts. Men of this day had a vague notion that nice women were weak, timid and delicate, and that nice men treated them with polite but rather distant chivalry.

Swimming was indulged in only by men in the early Nineties. Later, when women were learning this sport, they were greatly handicapped by their black alpaca bathing suits made with full pleated skirt and middy blouse with elbow sleeves, sewed to a loose fitting belt at the waist. The skirt length covered the knees. Under this dress were worn full bloomers made of three yards of wide material, which were sewed to an underbody, fastened with buttons and buttonholes. Long black stockings, usually of cotton, were worn with this outfit. A band of ribbon held the long hair in place. What a change in the modern bathing suit!

### CARD PLAYING

One great amusement among men, both married and single, was to meet and play five-up or seven-up for pastime or the drinks. Some played for money. Sometimes a store-keeper would even close his store to get in a game of cards or marbles.

In the saloon days, playing for drinks was the rule, and many a man would get too many drinks to at-



tend to business or even walk home at the close of the day. Fighting was much more common then than at the present.

#### MARBLE PLAYING

After crops were laid by, men would meet at town or in the country at some neighbor's house and play marbles all day. If it was wet weather they played under some barn or shed. Often marble players became quite proficient in the game. It was always a source of pride to be able to plump the middler more than once in a game. Players of the present day would have little chance to win in a game of marbles with those of an earlier day.

## CHAPTER XXIII.

### Some Great Court Trials

THERE have been far too many killings in this county, in fact, one murder is more than any people should have. Notwithstanding, we are no worse than those about us in this Nation. There is no desire to hold up before the coming generations the evils of the past, but in justice to ourselves and a proper regard for the truth, it is desired that three or four of the most outstanding Court Trials be discussed briefly. No county in the United States has been more grossly misrepresented over the entire world than the County of Jackson. When the gentle zephyrs of the last Spring of time kiss the hallowed soil of Old Jackson County and sway the lonely forest pine, the evil done us—a proud, virtuous and peace-loving people—by the ignorant and vicious propagandist, will still be held in the “Scottsboro Case”.

The writer shall not endeavor to describe this case for obvious reasons, since it has not yet been settled and is too new to receive a fair historical treatment. It surely was an evil day for the people of this county when that freight train on that fatal day, March 25, 1931, passed through the county carrying a dozen or more negroes, some white men and two white women. In the opinion of our people there is not the least shade or shadow of doubt as to the guilt of the accused negroes. The Southern people were making slow but steady progress in properly handling the race question between the whites and blacks. This unfortunate affair has set back the good feeling between the races a decade and advanced greatly the spirit of mob violence among many of our citizens. The details of the case will be left to be told by some future historian.

## THE FIRST HANGING

We have by tradition an account of the first murder in Paint Rock Valley and the first hanging in the county. There are some details of the story that seem to be fanciful and to lead one to believe the hanging was done in Decatur County, at Old Woodville. We shall give an account of this murder and trial just as it has been given to the writer by reliable men.

On the head of Lick Fork Creek, at a very early date, two men, one named Fitch, the other named Williams, were out hunting on the west side of the creek upon the top bench of the mountain. The final proof showed that Williams shot Fitch and killed him. When Williams went back home and Fitch failed to show up, the people thought maybe Williams had killed him, for it was known they had had some trouble, but had made up and Fitch thought everything was all right. So Williams was arrested and made to go and show where they went to hunt. The officers hunted about over the side of the mountain for quite a time, until they finally heard a dog bark. They went to the dog, which proved to belong to Mr. Fitch, who was lying there cold in death. His dog had stayed with his lifeless body all this time. Oh, that men and women would show this fidelity in all relations of life!

The hunters used rifle guns and moulded their own bullets and kept in their shot-pouch a piece of cloth off of which they would cut what they called patchen to put around the bullet. The officers found the patch that had been on the bullet that killed Fitch. It was like the cloth Williams had in his shot-pouch. Williams had a trial and they sent him to jail, which tradition says was in Old Woodville. This jail was not a very strong house; Williams got out but went blind and failed to get away, so he was caught and put back. He regained his sight in the jail and got

out a second time but went blind again and was soon caught and put back. He was tried in court and hanged. He was the first man to be hanged in the county.

All the foregoing has been accepted as facts by aged men now living, whose veracity is unquestioned. They buried Fitch on the side of the mountain, put some rocks around the grave and cut his name on a tree nearby. Men now living have seen the grave.

#### CAS WEBB KILLED THREE BROTHERS

In the early eighteen and eighties, near Coffeytown on the south side of the Tennessee River, on the Jackson and Marshall County line was a saloon. In a drunken fight, Cas Webb killed three Willborn brothers. He escaped but was finally arrested, brought back and tried, and was acquitted on the plea of self defense. He went to Texas at once after his acquittal, to live.

Mr. L. D. (Dow) Wilborn, of Langston, a brother of the three Willborn brothers who were killed, is now living at a ripe old age, honored and respected by everyone.

#### TRIPLE HANGING, AUGUST 1, 1884

In 1856, Henry Porter came from New York to die, as he and his friends thought, of a lingering disease, amid the mountains of North Alabama. After a few months' stay, invigorated by the pure air of Jackson County, his health began to improve rapidly and he entered on a new lease of life. He purchased land and built a handsome residence on a commanding bluff on the Tennessee River, not far from Bridgeport on Sand Mountain, now known as Porter's Bluff. The location was beautiful and healthful, the home was furnished handsomely. Here Mr. and Mrs. Porter, Miss Sue Z. Standish, Mrs. Porter's sister, and Mrs. Chubbuck were living in quietude and happiness, beloved and respected by their neighbors,

until the night of the great tragedy which robbed them of their beautiful home.

On Sunday evening, March 25, 1883, about dark they were startled by the reports of fire arms near the home. Looking out, they saw under the ever-greens three or four men. One shot passed through the front door, quickly followed by other shots, and the yells of the marauders were heard. They came in and demanded \$500. There being no money in the house, it could not be given them. They set fire to the house and Mr. Porter and family had to flee in the darkness to keep from being killed or roasted alive.

George and Asbury Hughes and John Grayson were arrested shortly after this crime and put in jail at Scottsboro, and remained there until their trial in June the next year. George Smith was not arrested until shortly before the trial. He was captured in Tennessee, after having been shot, and was brought to Alabama for trial. Smith was a bad man and had killed a Mr. Street before this house-burning. The Hughes boys were about 18 and 20 years old, respectively. Their father lived in Rhea County, Tennessee.

The counsel for the defense were Gen. L. P. Walker of Huntsville, Mr. Allen of Rhea County, Tenn., Judge Haralson of DeKalb, R. C. Hunt and Judge Coulson of Scottsboro. The attorneys for the prosecution were, Hon. J. E. Brown of Scottsboro, Capt. L. W. Day of Huntsville, and Solicitor Jones. H. C. Speake was the trial judge. All the accused protested their innocence to the very last minute.

The jury returned a verdict of guilty, and sentenced George Smith, George and Asbury Hughes to be hanged, and John Grayson to the penitentiary for life. Their cases were appealed to the higher court, but were confirmed. Interest in this trial was great; the excitement was intense; serious trouble was



narrowly averted. The Sheriff, Thos. J. Robinson, called in a strong force of guards. When the day arrived for the execution, the town was full of people. Many threats to release the prisoners were heard in the crowd. Many thought the sentence too severe. Others thought them innocent and that Governor O'Neal would, at least, give a short respite and the hanging would be postponed. They thought this especially on account of the extreme youth of the Hughes boys and since at the last, Hon. J. E. Brown, who had helped prosecute them, had wired the Governor to stay the execution, but the Governor refused and the execution was carried out. As the last lingering hope of the condemned trio was dispelled, they began to make some preparations for death. They firmly denied to the last, knowing anything about the Porter house burning.

They requested to be baptized by immersion, so at 11 o'clock J. J. Beeson, of the Baptist Church, immersed them all in a bath tub in a room adjoining the cells. At the request of the prisoners the Sacrament was administered.

While these scenes were going on in the jail, the crowd outside became very restless and frequent demands were made that the prisoners be allowed to speak. The sheriff brought to the window George Hughes, who spoke with great earnestness, saying: "Gentlemen, I want to call your attention to some facts. I have been treated badly. I have been convicted and am innocent. If you hang me, you hang an innocent man. I was a quarter of a mile below Shellmound the night of the burning. I hope the people of Jackson County will never hang another innocent man. I hope you all will meet me in heaven."

Smith spoke next and said: "I want to say that I have got to die today but am innocent. I have done some things but didn't do this. You must live religiously and do right. Goodbye."

Asbury Hughes said: "Gentlemen, I am going to die, but I will tell the truth and God is my witness. I am innocent of the Porter house burning. When you pull my neck for that, you hang an innocent man. I advise all young men to stay at home and not go out at night. This is all I have to say."

After the 51st Psalm was read, a prayer offered and a song, "*There is a Fountain Filled With Blood*," was sung, the prisoners were led to the scaffold. The crowd around the jail surged up to the fence and many yelled over the fence, "Tear down the enclosure, we want to see the law carried out." The guards formed in line with guns presented. L. F. Whitten, the Methodist minister, and Judge Tally made short speeches to the crowd. The deputy sheriff, John C. Johnson, cut the rope and the prisoners were hurled into eternity. According to the *Montgomery Advertiser*, "This is the first instance in which a white man was executed for arson in Alabama."

This trial and hanging had its influence in the next general election in the county and as a result, the regular Democratic ticket was defeated by Independents.

## CHAPTER XXIV.

### Banks

JACKSON COUNTY had never had a bank until the Spring of 1887. R. C. Ross and son came from Rush Lake, Iowa, and organized The Jackson County Bank at Scottsboro. This bank soon passed into the hands of R. A. and W. A. Coffey. After their deaths, J. C. Jacobs, executor of the R. A. and W. A. Coffey estate, ran the bank and sold it to The Merchants Bank in November 1900.

The Merchants Bank (now The Tennessee Valley Bank) was organized in Florence, Alabama, in 1892. The bank at Tuscumbia was the second one organized in 1897.

The Merchants Bank was the third one of a chain of banks, organized in Scottsboro, July 1899. Mason B. Shelton was made president of this bank; Wyeth Rorex, cashier. Officers and stockholders were, Judge Sam W. Tate, Dr. J. P. Rorex and Capt. J. W. Moody.

S. S. Broadus, president of this chain of Merchants Banks, thought the name did not quite suit, as his banks were doing a good business with many classes of people, and the name, "The Merchants Bank" was changed to "The Tennessee Valley Bank," January 1, 1909.

In the latter part of 1900, a new bank was organized in Scottsboro. W. B. Bridges was made president and J. W. Gay, cashier. Messrs. Wilkerson and Young, of Tullahoma, Tennessee, were the main stockholders.

The First National Bank was organized in 1906, with J. D. Snodgrass as president, and L. W. Rorex, cashier. C. A. Webb, R. H. Bynum and D. F. Shelton were vice-presidents.

In 1907, The Bank of Scottsboro bought the First National Bank. the bank has been run as the First National Bank of Scottsboro since that date.

J. C. Jacobs Banking Company was organized November 6, 1909, with J. C. Jacobs as president. He is still serving as president. This bank started with capital and surplus of \$15,000, but later the capital and surplus has been increased greatly.

A small bank was organized at Larkinsville, with E. G. Grantham, cashier. S. H. Hodges, J. N. Cahoon and J. W. Manning were made directors. This bank did not run but a few years.

Paint Rock had a bank for a number of years. It was called The Bank of Paint Rock, but after having financial trouble, it was made a branch of the Tennessee Valley Bank. It was closed out in March 1933.

#### BANKS AT STEVENSON

The Bank of Stevenson was organized in 1901, with W. H. Bogart, president; W. J. Tally, vice-president; P. B. Timberlake, vice-president, and N. C. Alston, cashier.

The Merchants Bank, later taking the name of The Tennessee Valley Bank, was organized in 1901, by S. S. Boadus.

The First National Bank was organized in October 1910, with W. J. Tally, president; P. H. Woodall, vice-president, and J. T. Schultz, cashier.

#### BANKS AT BRIDGEPORT

Bridgeport has had a bank since the early eighteen nineties. The First National Bank was organized in 1890. R. A. Jones was president and T. R. Patterson, cashier. It went out of business with the 1893 panic.

The Bank of Bridgeport, organized in 1894 or '95, went out of business about 1900. R. C. Gunter was president.

The Citizens Bank was organized in 1904. J. H. Gunter was president and A. A. Lesuer, cashier.

The First State Bank, organized in 1908; L. R. Lee, president and Wyeth Rorex, cashier.

J. C. Jacobs Banking Company ran from 1910 to 1917. Its employees were conscripted in the World War.

In 1918, The American National Bank was organized. R. Stephenson is president and F. W. Carr is cashier.



## CHAPTER XXV.

### Live Stock

FROM a very early date a law was enacted to have every person, who has any horses, cattle or other stock running on the range, to have a brand or ear-mark different from the brand or ear-mark of every other person in the same county; such brand or ear-mark must be recorded in the county. To alter or deface brands or marks, or to drive off stock belonging to another, drew a heavy penalty.

#### STOCK LAW

On September 29, 1903, a general Stock Law was passed, which allowed each precinct to vote on whether that precinct would allow stock to run on the commons or at large. The area in this county where stock may run on the open range is gradually becoming less with almost each election held on the question.

Stock raising was hindered greatly by ticks, and the Texas fever tick was most fatal to cattle. Through the efforts of Charles A. Cary of Auburn, Alabama, a tick eradication law was passed, March 12, 1907, by the Legislature; but Jackson County did not take up the work until 1912, under the direction of the State Live Stock Sanitary Board.

Dipping vats were dug and solutions to kill the ticks were provided in nearly every precinct in the county. In these the cattle were dipped every two weeks during the summer and fall seasons, and thereby the woods and pastures were practically cleared of ticks.

This work met with strong and sometimes violent opposition by some people, yet in the long run it

succeeded and was a blessing to the live stock industry. Strict quarantines (or the moving of cattle from one place to another) were put in force.

In the spring of 1909, the cattle tick question was begun to be discussed by representatives of the U. S. Bureau of Animal Industry and others. Probate Judge J. J. Williams and County Commissioners asked for an election on the cattle tick question to be voted on in the primary, May 2, 1910. It was defeated in this election, but the State Live Stock Sanitary Boards gave the right through the Commissioner's Court to take up and enforce the law.

Many letters were written by leading citizens and published in the county papers, for and against the Tick Eradication question. After the work was begun in the county, through the Commissioner's Court, the question was carried to the Supreme Court, and the Court decided that in those counties that did not have a majority of their areas under stock law, they could not take up the work through the commissioners. As Jackson County was not one of those counties with a majority of its area under stock law, the work was temporarily stopped.

In May 1913, at a meeting of Live Stock men, money was raised to pay for the work, and the Commissioners reinstalled the work. A county Live Stock Association was organized at Scottsboro, with Robert L. Butler president, which raised the necessary funds to carry on the Tick Eradication work. Three Inspectors were appointed, E. H. Caldwell, Geo. J. Hodges and E. R. English.

In February, a large part of the northern section of the county was released as free from quarantine, and in September the rest of the county was released from quarantine, except a part of Sand Mountain and Lim Rock, Garth and Nat, which were released the next year. This work was under the supervision of Dr. Chas. J. Becker, State Live Stock Inspector.

Like all great forward and progressive movements, this Tick Eradication met with strong, bitter and violent opposition in some parts of the county. A few dipping vats were dynamited. But who would want to go back now to such conditions as existed before the work of ridding the cattle of ticks?

### HOG CHOLERA

Hog Cholera was most prevalent and there was a great tax on the industry up until a few years ago, when a serum was found which has practically stamped out this dreaded disease among the hogs. It was used by means of a hypodermic needle similar to vaccination of people. Many fine hogs died in this county before the use of this serum was discovered a few years ago.

## CHAPTER XXVI.

### Road Building

A GENERAL road law was enacted in 1836 that was in force, with a few amendments, for sixty years. It was the custom all this time to have an overseer with a few hands to go over the road, break up a few rocks about the size of a man's fist and fill up the deepest mud holes. With this done, the overseer reported that his time had been put in. The time referred to usually consisted of ten days for all men between the ages of 18 and 45 years, with only a few men exempted. The work each man did, would not win a prize in a wood-chopping contest but would likely improve his skill in marble playing or story telling or some other means of time killing.

The roads were laid out to save all the tillable land possible for cultivation, around the foot of the hills or mountains and occasionally it passed across the valley, called a lane.

This was the condition of affairs when Virgil Bouldin went to the Legislature in 1896. He, with the other legislators, passed a new Road Law. Two years later, Milo Moody, and Calvin M. Rousseau were elected to the Legislature, and George Hall was in the State Senate. They enacted a bill to build Pike Roads: "An Act to authorize Jackson County to build macadamized roads and bridges and to issue bonds of the County to aid in the construction and building thereof, to appoint a road commission of five persons by the Governor."

This Act was one of the first to sell bonds to build roads enacted in the State. It was approved December 7, 1898, and before any roads were built, the original Act was amended, February 9, 1899.

The Governor, Joseph F. Johnston, appointed the Road Commission as follows: R. S. Skelton, chairman; George R. Hodges, Mark L. Rudder, S. R. Grimmett and B. F. Shook.

Many citizens at Bridgeport, Stevenson and Scottsboro opposed selling bonds for roads. Meetings were held in these towns to raise funds to enjoin the bond sale. Ex-Supreme Judge R. C. Brickell of Huntsville was employed to fight the bond sale, but they lost in the litigation.

The Road Commission advertised for bids on \$125,000 worth of bonds. There were twenty bidders and the bonds were sold to Farson, Leach & Co., Chicago, Illinois, at  $4\frac{1}{2}\%$  interest with \$2,000 as a premium. This sale failed because of doubts of the county being able to pay the bonds.

The foregoing bonds were to "pay semi-annual interest at Scottsboro or Huntsville, Alabama, or New York, at the pleasure of the purchaser, and mature in thirty years, subject to call after twenty years." These bonds were to bear interest date of March 1, 1899.

The suit enjoining the bond sale having been set aside, the Road Commission sold \$75,000 worth of bonds in February 1900, to New National Bank, Columbus, Ohio. Joe H. Gregory was commissioned to carry the bonds to Columbus, Ohio, and receive in exchange for them the money. The Commission met to lay out roads to be built, make specifications and advertise for lowest bidders to contract for building same. They employed Engineers Lockhard & Smith, of Montgomery, who began surveying the roads on Monday, April 1, 1900, at Stevenson. W. T. Bullen did the surveying. All the first bids were rejected but later contracts were made with G. P. Bouldin, W. J. Tally, I. P. Russell, Dr. McClendon, T. M. Cobb, R. L. Butler, Sr., to build these roads. Nearly every one of these contractors lost money, the roads were



poorly built and the balance of the \$225,000 worth of bonds were sold and spent in road building.

In 1900, George W. Bulman and Richard Johnson were elected to the Legislature. F. A. Bostick was elected to the State Senate. The Bulman New Road Law, patterned after the Bouldin Road Law, had a privilege tax on vehicles, with wide tire wagons exempt, proved to be unpopular in the county among all those who possessed vehicles.

## CHAPTER XXVII.

### Bellefonte

BELLEFONTE was the first town incorporated in Jackson County. Two days after it had been selected as the County Seat of Jackson County, the Legislature passed an Act to incorporate the town (December 15, 1821):

Section 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Alabama, in general assembly convened*, that the town of Bellefonte, in the County of Jackson, be, and the same is hereby established and incorporated, including sixty acres, agreeably to the plan of said town.

Section 2. *“And be it further enacted*, That an election shall be held at the house of John Hampton in said town, on the first Monday in February next, and on the same day in every year thereafter, to commence at ten o'clock in the morning and close at two in the afternoon, for the purpose of electing by ballot five councillors, inhabitants of said town, who shall serve for the term of one year after they shall have been elected; the election shall be conducted and managed by a justice of the peace and two householders in said town; . . . . And the said councillors shall be, and they are hereby constituted a body corporate, by the name and style of ‘The Intendant and Council of the Town of Belle-Fonte’, and by that name they and their successors in office, shall be capable in law, of suing and being sued, etc.” . . . are constituted a corporate body.

For some reason unknown at this time, the election was not held until the *second* Monday of February, 1822. The Legislature passed an act January 1, 1823, making the election legal.

Different places in the county were anxious to secure the location of the county seat. Stephen Carter and George W. Higgins gave the land for the use of the town as a county seat, and the contract was to run for 100 years; but since the papers were burned just after the Civil War, the heirs cannot now make claim for said land. The Councillors sold lots, and the town grew rapidly and did a thriving business for many years. Some of the first families to settle here were: Stephen Carter, the first Clerk of the County Court; George W. Higgins, the first Clerk of Circuit Court of Jackson County; William Hurt, Moses Jones, Carter O. Harris, Colonel White, who owned a large plantation; four Snodgrass brothers, Ambresters, Wilburns, Rectors, Lancasters and Norwoods. The first merchants were Alvah Finley, James L. Carter, W. F. Hurt, William Austin, C. B. Roundtree, and Mr. Maddox. James Hawk ran a blacksmith shop. Nelson and Charley Robinson were in the drug business. Mr. Frost was a cabinet maker.

There were two brick stores, one on each corner of the north side of the public square, with five or six frame stores between. The courthouse, jail and two dwellings were built of brick. For many years, there was only one church building in the town. It was erected by the Methodists about 1839. All denominations had preaching in it occasionally. A Cumberland Church house was built a year or two before the Civil War. Both houses were frame buildings and were used by the Federal Army who camped here during the winter of 1863-64. Ministers of the Methodists were Adams and Hickman. Broone and Stockton were Cumberland ministers.

#### PHYSICIANS

The leading physicians of the county resided here and had a wide practice. Doctor Morrison died here.

Dr. Sterne, who was the first president of the County Medical Society, died here. Doctor Haines spent his last days in this town. Doctor Cook, who lived here some time, went to Kentucky. Doctor Louis moved to Madison County.

### SCHOOLS

The first school house was a long, one-room frame building, called the Academy. The teachers were Broone, Robinson, Maddox and others. Later, the people saw the need of better school facilities, so they erected a two-story brick Masonic Hall in the early eighteen fifties and used the lower story for schools. The first teacher in this new building was a Miss Finley, who had just finished school in Athens, Ala.

The upper story was used by the Masonic Lodge No. 82. This was the first Lodge organized in the county.

### LAWYERS

The law was considered one of the greatest professions in that day, and many of the most eminent lawyers either resided in Bellefonte or practiced in the courts here. It is not generally known that Leroy Pope Walker, who was Secretary of War in Jefferson Davis' Confederate Cabinet, lived a while in Bellefonte and practiced law. He ordered the shot which started the Civil War.

Nelson Robinson, who came from Virginia, lived and died here. William Robinson; Albert Russell, who came from Huntsville; Patrick Ragland of Virginia, who was Register in Chancery and Secretary of State; Edward Wallace, John and "Billie" Norwood, John and Hugh Parks, and Henry Clay Bradford, sometimes called the silver-tongued orator, practiced law in the brick courthouse in Bellefonte.

Other noted men who lived here were: Daniel Martin, who ran a stage coach from Bellefonte to Gunter's Landing; Robert T. Scott, who is so well known in the county and for whom Scottsboro is

named, ran an inn or tavern; Congressman Williamson; R. W. Cobb, who was never defeated for Congress, had a residence in the town. His lovely wife was a Miss Allison of Madison County. They had no children.

After the County Seat was moved to Scottsboro, the town gradually lost its business and finally ceased to be, in the eighteen-eighties.

### COURT HOUSE AT BELLEFONTE BURNED

Who burned the Court House and when did it burn? These questions have been unanswered all these years. It has been said by some writers, that the Federal Army burned it during the Civil War. Fathers of late years have accepted this statement as true and handed the same down to their sons. The writer has made a close study of the question for the last twelve years, has questioned many aged men and women, who have now gone to their reward, read everything he could find that might give any light on the question. Therefore, he is prepared to make the following answer to the question, "Who burned the Courthouse, and when?"

It was burned near the close of the war to destroy records. The Minutes of Circuit Court held in the town of Bellefonte, October 9, 1865, with Judge W. J. Haralson presiding; Benjamin Snodgrass, Sheriff; L. H. Brewer, Circuit Clerk, show the following facts:

John R. Coffey was foreman of the Grand Jury, and reported as follows: "We have examined the County Jail, and find it insufficient for the safe-keeping of prisoners. We have not been able to examine the condition of the County Treasurer's office, because the Books thereof were removed at the approach of the Federal Troups, and as this body is informed, were lost or destroyed during the late war. . . . The Grand Jury further reports, that the Court-



house of said County was destroyed during the war, and there is no building at the seat of Justice suitable to hold the Courts in." The Court was adjourned sine die, October 12, 1865, by Judge Haralson.

Court was held in the spring of 1866, in Bellefonte, and each spring and fall until the records were moved to Scottsboro in November 1868.

The Grand Jury does not say who destroyed the Courthouse. It was burned by a man to destroy records. The author is under solemn promise not to reveal his name, though he has been dead a few years. The man who gave the author this information is an old Confederate soldier, whose integrity is beyond any question. Every other aged man, who was questioned on the burning of the Courthouse, said "it occurred near the close of the war or just after the close." One aged lady said "it was burned during the war by the Federal Army." When claims for property destroyed by the Federal Army during the war were made in 1911, the U. S. Government paid for a church house burned at Larkinsville, one at Oak Grove, a Lodge building near Stevenson, and other property. With these claims were two for church houses in Bellefonte which the Government would not allow. This would indicate that the army did not destroy the two churches,—of course they quartered soldiers in these churches during the winter of 1863-64. If there has ever been any claim filed to get pay for the burning of the Courthouse at Bellefonte, the writer has not been able to find it.

## CHAPTER XXVIII.

### Paint Rock Valley

PAINT ROCK VALLEY is in the western part of Jackson County and extends from the town of Paint Rock to the Tennessee State line. The Paint Rock River is formed by the junction of the Hurricane and Estill's creeks, and a little lower down is Larkin's creek. All these creeks rise in the mountains near the Tennessee-Alabama state line. The river flows in a southerly direction, gradually increasing in size by a number of creeks. Lick Fork Creek flows into Paint Rock River near Princeton, on the west; then Dry Creek also on the west; next is Guess Creek on the east, near Trenton; then Clear Creek on the west near Garth, with a number of big branches or small creeks that flow into this river along the way. The Cumberland Mountain is on the east, and a number of smaller mountains on the west. This river is 65 miles long and empties into the Tennessee River fifteen miles below Guntersville, at the Painted Bluff. In its lower stretches it forms the boundary line between Marshall and Madison counties. It gets its name from the Painted Bluff at its mouth.

The Valley gets its name from the river. We shall first describe the Valley and then the people. On either side of the river are a number of Coves, varying in size. Leaving the town of Paint Rock and going up the valley you will find on the east side of the river, first, Hale's Cove; Finley's Cove (small); Guess' Creek Cove (large); Frazier's Cove; William's Cove, just east of Hollytree; Eustice's Cove; Cowan's Hollow; Fowler's Cove (large); Robertson's Cove; Hinshaw's Cove. Then on Hurricane Creek is Bishop's Cove and Langston's Cove.

On the west side of the river, as you go up the valley, are the following Coves: Clear Creek Cove, a large one; Dan Kirk's Cove, near the Houk and Little homes; Bingham's Cove, near Trenton; Davis Cove; Dry Creek Cove (large); Lick Fork Cove, near Princeton. On Larkin's Fork is Reed's Cove and Kennedy's Cove. Up the Estill's Creek is Holland's Cove, near the post office, and Burkes' Cove.

These Coves nestle in this valley between the river and the mountains, like the parts of a jig-saw puzzle. As the land in the valley and on the sides of the mountains was so rich, it was covered with a very dense forest of large trees of many kinds. If this timber were here now, it would be worth a fortune of more than a million dollars.

When the first settlers came, they made their homes up in the Coves and on the sides of the Mountains. Down near the river, there were so much big timber, vines, canes, ponds, lagoons and lakes, the climate was unhealthful and the land was difficult to clear for cultivation. The land in the coves and on the hillsides was more easily cleared and very rich and loose. It is said that in the spring of the year a man could bend over a dogwood sapling large enough for a good hand spike—a stick used to roll logs,—and pull it up by the roots, because the ground was so rich and loose. The foregoing conditions account for most of the old graveyards being located up on the sides of the mountains.

As the first settlers had small fields or patches of corn in cultivation, some years the squirrels, coons and bears would eat up nearly all of it. It was the habit of the bear to go into the field at night and gather 40 or 50 ears of corn, pile it up and sit down to eat all he wanted. The women did not need to raise turkeys for there were great flocks of wild turkeys in the woods near. When they wanted a

turkey for dinner, the man would go out and shoot one, or if the ammunition was scarce, he would build a pen to catch them alive. The writer has seen a few pens. These pens were built of ten-foot rails, about six or eight rails high, covered with rails so that when the turkeys got in the pen they could not get out. About six or eight feet from one side of the pen, a ditch 18 inches or two feet deep was dug under the bottom rail of the pen and to the center, and covered the ditch two or three feet inside the pen, then scattered shelled corn in the ditch. The turkeys would go in. When they got in and raised up their heads, they never stooped down again to go back out, but put their time in going round the pen trying to get out at a crack.

As a rule there were so much beech mast, acorns, hickory nuts and chestnuts that their hogs got fat enough for meat in the woods with but little or no feed at all.

Birds were so numerous that boys with traps could keep a supply for the table without great effort. Some winters such flocks of wild carrier pigeons came and as their habit was to select certain trees to roost in, so many would get on a limb that they would break it off. These pigeons are now extinct, like the buffalo. For many years, millions of these pigeons were killed in the north and shipped to market.

Agriculture was the main industry of the people of the valley. It was hard to clear the land and dispose of the great amount of timber. Before it could be cultivated, they cut and rolled logs for many days before planting the crop. They lived in log houses with either a dirt floor or a puncheon floor—that was slabs split out of logs and hewn smooth with a broad-ax. Malcome Thompson, a great-uncle of John K. Thompson, once owned the place where John Beason lives, at Princeton. To build his dwelling, he cut a

large poplar tree, sawed off two logs, split them into long thin slabs, hewed them in proper shape and put up a two-room house of good size.

To make a wheat bin, one would go down in the bottoms, cut a large hollow sycamore, cut off about six feet, nail plank on one end and use it to put grain in. These Sycamores were so large that once W. W. Thompson's father led his horse with his saddle on, through a big hollow cut. All the cedars were big, old trees, which grew on the sides of the mountains. If one now had all the cedar that was burned to kindle fires and to make molasses, he would be rich.

The settlers of the Valley were not different from the settlers in other parts of the county. Beginning at the head of Hurricane Creek, are found the Giffords, Sanders, Dodson, Jacks, Bishop, McCollough, Martin, Collins, Anderson; on Estill's Fork, are found Burks, Wilson, Sims, Mins, Gray, Sisk, Langham, Hood, Trice, Money, Reid, Robertson, Collins and Gayle. Further down the river are found, Grimmett, Vanzant, Bulman, Holland, Hinshaw, Turpin, Austell, Morris, Martin, Robertson, Miller, Walker, Fowler, and Grant. On Larkin's Fork are found, Kennedy, McColum, Riddle, Brewer, Cagle, Arnold, Jack, King, Cox, Dubois, Shepard, Beason, Reed, Allen, Butler, Clung, Hall, Trice, Hickman, Fanning, Calloway, Simmons, and Green. Further down the river are found, Dwire, Duncan, Graham, Russ, Stovall, Middleton, Williams, Williamson, and Blackwell. On Lick Fork are found, Campbell, Pattiller, Bostick, Thompson, Manly, Scorlock, Rowen, Bates, Yeats, Wright, Cham, Scott, Davis, Clay, Lamb, Vanzant, Martin, Poston, and Horton. In Thompson's Cove are found, Johnson, Vaught, Broyles, Malley, Thompson, and Davis. Down the river are found, Bridges, Thompson, French (a very noted Methodist preacher at that day), Eustace, Walden (an old Indian). He lived where Emmett Eustace now lives. The road



ran below the field on the bank of the river. There was a bridge on the branch that was said to be "haunted". There has been some superstition in every age. Near here lived Crabtree, Austin, and Princeton. Austin had a big tan-yard, kept the Post Office, and had a harness and shoe shop. He was justice of the peace many years, wrote the land deeds for the people of the community, settled most of the lawsuits, and wrote their business letters. Further down the river we find, Pennington, Hambrick, Woodfin, Campbell, Tony, Davis, Williamson, Creswell, Cunningham, Howel, Mooney, Vaught, Padgett, Davis, Hill, Berry, Webb, Hethering, Frazier, William, Cardin, Hunter, Latham, Wilson, Kirkpatrick, Wilbourn, Johnson, Crawley, Smith, Sercy, Hale, Jones, Derrick, Daniel, Rousseau, Lilly, Clark, Sinclair, Flanagan, Mead, Renfro, Lewis, Yarbrough.

As it has been said before, Agriculture was the main industry of the valley settlers. They raised corn, oats, wheat, pumpkins and a little cotton; also horses, mules, cattle, sheep and hogs. They cut the wheat and oats with a scything cradle, threshed the grain by piling it on a barn floor or large flat rock, and riding horses over it to tramp out the grain. They separated the wheat from the straw and chaff by hand fans. Later, threshers came into use.

Cotton gins at first were crude affairs and the seed was considered worthless except to plant.

When the first sorghum was made, the cane was ground on a mill with wooden rollers, turned by a horse, and the noise these rollers made could be heard quite a distance. The molasses was made in washpots. It was black, but sweet.

#### FARM PRODUCTS CARRIED TO MARKET

Cotton bales were hauled to Nashville, Tennessee, which took five or six days, or were put on rafts and floated down Paint Rock River to the Tennessee

River to be carried to the New Orleans market. Wheat was hauled to Bell Factory, on Flint River in Madison County, or to the Fall's Mill, in Tennessee, to be ground. Travel was on foot or horseback. Hauling was done largely by ox-wagons, except on long hauls. Many hogs were raised in the valley and driven on foot to central and south Alabama in droves of 200 or 300, and sold to the large cotton planters. This was a great trip for any young man to see a little of the world, for they would be gone five or six weeks. As there were no trains to ride, they walked back home.

#### CHURCHES IN THE VALLEY

There were not many churches in the Valley, though the records show that a few churches were organized at a very early date. Paint Rock Baptist Church helped organize the Mud Creek Primitive Baptist Association in 1821. The late "Captain" J. P. William's grandfather, John William, was a Baptist preacher then.

Sardis, up near the head of the Valley, was another Primitive Baptist Church organized at an early date. Wesley Sisk preached here many years.

Before the Civil War, the Methodist, Cumberland, and Free-Will Baptist had congregations in the Valley. At an early date a Cumberland Presbyterian Church was organized on Dry Creek. D. K. Hunter, of Madison County, and Henry Larkin, of the Tennessee Presbyterians, and a little later, William Gale, who had settled there, did the preaching. John Erwin, a Cumberland preacher, and Thomas Hickman, a Methodist preacher, held some noted meetings together on Lick Fork Creek. Under Erwin's preaching, W. W. Thompson was converted and joined the Cumberland Church in 1859 or '60. After two years study at Lebanon, Tennessee, he began to preach for that church and continued until 1910.

When the question of uniting the Cumberland Presbyterian Church with the Presbyterian, came up, he went with the latter church and preached for the Presbyterians until about a year ago. He is now living in Huntland, Tennessee, at a ripe old age of 84 years. He has probably married more couples and preached more funerals than any other man who ever lived in the Valley.

About 1854, Richard Talliefero bought a large farm, including the spring where John Beeson lives, and settled there. He was well off. He owned a number of negro slaves, and as his wife was a fine business manager, Mr. Talliefero devoted his time to preaching. He was a good exhorter and a successful organizer. Under his guiding influence the Missionary Baptist became strong in the County, as well as in the Valley.

#### THE VILLAGES AND POST OFFICES IN THE VALLEY

Leaving the town of Paint Rock on the railroad, the first village near the mouth of Clear Creek is Garth. It was so named for Congressman Garth, who had the postal route from Paint Rock up the Valley created. The Post Office has been discontinued. There are a Missionary Church and a Church of Christ there, but no stores and only a few dwelling houses.

The next town up the valley some nine miles from the railroad, is Trenton, established a hundred years ago. R. K. Drake was the first Postmaster, in 1838. Thomas M. King was Postmaster in 1845. Two years later, Epriam C. William was serving as Postmaster. He was Postmaster also when the office was moved to Nashville. Long before the Civil War, Whit Drake of Huntsville bought out the Trenton settlers and turned the village into negro quarters. Nashville, situated on the east side of the river near the mouth of Guess' Creek, was built, and at one time there

were some stores, a mill, a shop or two, a post office, with several residences in the village.

The church built in Trenton before the Civil War, stood down near the Spring. It was used after the war for some years, until the Baptists built up on the hill. The Presbyterian church house was built about thirty-five years ago.

Hollytree is a small place, with a store or two and a church house, down near the mouth of Dry Creek.

Princeton, the largest town in the Valley, is now located up near the mouth of Lick Fork Creek. The first post office was called *Birmingham*, this was in 1847, twenty-five years before the great City of Birmingham was even thought of. A. C. Austin was the first postmaster. He kept the office down near the tan-yard. A little later it was moved up to where Emmett Eustace lives; then later, to the present location. The name of Birmingham was changed to Princeton, April 1, 1849. In 1855, R. C. Austin was the postmaster. The town does a thriving business, has a good school and churches. Mr. Lusk is now the postmaster.

The Post Office of Swaim is further up the river toward Estill's Fork. There is a thriving little village at Estill's voting place.

Up at the state line on Larkin's Fork, is Post Office Francisco. The post office was established in 1875. M. H. Rich was the first postmaster. This town was named for Dr. Francisco Rice, who was a Captain in the Confederate Army and was also our State Senator during the Civil War. His home was down near Paint Rock, Ala., on the east side of the river.

At or near this little village, but long before any post office there, lived a family. The man was away from home, the mother had gone to the spring, when some prowling Indians came and killed two girls, scalped them and were leaving as the mother got in sight of home. As quickly as she could, she notified



her neighbors, who got together a few men and followed the Indians to the Tennessee River, but failed to overtake them. These two girls were buried at Francisco. This is how the Beach Grove cemetery was started.

Larkin's Fork Post Office, named for William Larkin, near Mr. Green's, or nearly a mile from the Forks of the road, was the first post office established in the Valley. It was established in 1830, with Jesse McElyea the first postmaster. He served until Warn'g P. Robertson was appointed in 1845. Four years later, Jones Bishop was serving as postmaster. In 1855, T. B. Griffin was appointed as the fourth man to hold this office.

Paint Rock Valley has given to the County, the State, and the Nation, some notable men and women. This list would be too long, and besides, one would not know where to begin or to end, to even try to name them. It may be said, however, that there are four different families of "Robertsons" in the Valley, with only one spelling his name with "*in*" in it.

Moses Swaim, a pioneer, having come to the Valley in 1823, was the father of twenty-five children, and was married three times.

James K. Berry was born in the Valley, May 15, 1841. He went to Arkansas in 1848; lost a leg as Lieutenant in the Confederate Army, at Corinth, Miss. He held many offices in Arkansas, as U. S. Senator, Governor, and lesser offices.



## CHAPTER XXIX.

### Coves

THERE are many Coves in the county. Between Gurley and Paint Rock on the south side of the Southern Railroad and the northern foothills of Keel's Mountain, is Stewart's Hollow, or Cole's Cove, so called because David and William Stewart lived here for thirty-two years as renters. Robert Cole, an old bachelor, owned a great part of this Cove for a number of years.

On the north side of the Southern Railroad and the east side of the Cumberland Mountains, beginning near the Paint Rock River bridge, one mile north, is Kennamer Hollow, nestling among the most extreme southwestern foothills of the great Cumberland Mountain range.

#### BUTLER'S HOLLOW

Just east of Woodville, north of the railroad, lying east and west extending towards the northwest of the town, is Butler's Hollow. It was settled by Samuel Butler, Sr., the father of nearly all the Butlers in three counties.

#### COTTON COVE

One and one-half miles north of Woodville is Cotton Cove, named for Captain Frank Cotton's father. This is a good size come, in which is the Sutton Stephens' Reservation. Settlers were: Grizzle, Adams, Cambrons, Reeds, Parks, and Sheriff Robinson.

#### PETERS' COVE

Spout Spring, two and one-half miles northeast of Woodville, was once the home of Samuel B. Moore,

the only Governor Jackson County ever furnished the state. "Judge" Moore was living here when the Civil War began. What kin, if any, he was to the Governor we do not know. Farther east of Woodville is Peters' Cove, lying on both sides of the railroad, extending to Stephens' Gap. It was named for the Peters family who settled here before the county was created. Johny Peters (born 1797, died 1888) came to Huntsville when a boy, built one of the first cabins at Maysville, then came to Peters' Cove. He was a large man and one of the strongest men in the county. When the M. & C. Railroad was surveyed in 1851, it took his well and home, so he had to move back near the mountain. Settlers were: Johny and Andy Peters, Simeon Houk, Charley Stephens, Lacy Houk, Uriah and J. M. Peters.

Stephens' Gap gets its name from William Stephens who settled here. Schiffman's Cove extends toward Trenton, Paint Rock Valley, where the Cumberland Mountain is only about a hundred yards wide. This is known as Coffey's Narrows. Settlers were: Schiffman, Michael Houk, G. A. Moring, William and Milburn Shook, Reuben Erwin, James Glover, William Ryan, William Tipton, and William Rush.

#### BERRY'S COVE

Near Lim Rock, just east of Schiffman's Cove, is Berry's Cove. Just east of this cove is Gentle's Cove, which runs back to the foot of the mountain at the tipple near the Old Bellmont Coal mines. These mines will be described later.

Crossing Lesley's Ridge between Lim Rock and Larkinsville north of the railroad, the Halls and Davis Berry lived and is sometimes classed as part of Blue Spring Cove.

This latter cove, one mile west of Larkinsville, extends quite a distance. Noah Shelton lives in the head of this cove near the Cumberland Mountains.

Early settlers: James Dodson, John Jones, David Settles, James Woosley, David Ivy, John Smith, Jonathan Hall.

#### BOXES' COVE

The first cove east of Larkinsville, between the railroad and the mountain on the north, is Boxes' Cove. This cove is four miles long. It gets its name from three brothers, Ed, James, and Allen Box. John Harper settled in the head of the cove. He died at the beginning of the Civil War. He and his wife are buried near their home. The main cemetery is near the center of the cove at the church and school house. Settlers were: Joe Wood, Joe Fish, W. C. Manning, A. J. Harper, William Pace, William, Mason and Jim Wood, Frank Shelton, and J. Press Dodson. The latter sold his farm, now owned by Walter Bynum, and moved to the farm between Lim Rock and Stephens' Gap.

#### GARLAND'S COVE

Some three miles north of Scottsboro is Garland's Cove, lying east and west. It was settled at an early date by Joseph Garland, Sr. His farm was as large as the valley would permit. He had a son named William, and a daughter who married John Chapman. Near the mouth of this cove and Maynard's Cove, within three miles of Scottsboro, were the homes of J. P. McClenden, Anderson Dicus, Baird, J. J. Beeson, Capt. W. H. Dicus, T. B. Province, W. F. Thorp, and Turner Woods, colored. The latter was hanged in the eighteen-eighties for killing a negro.

#### MAYNARD'S COVE

This cove takes its name from a family of Maynards who settled here before the county was organized. It is a large cove and lies north and south. John Holland became a Justice of Peace, January 1, 1823, and held this office for years. We have not

been able to locate where the Post Office called "Cuba" was situated. This post office was established in 1845, with Randolph Ivy as postmaster. In 1847, L. D. Ivy was the postmaster. This office may have been in Maynard's Cove. In November, 1821, Providence Primitive Baptist Church sent as delegates, Hugh Gentry, John Owens and Levi Isbell to help organized the Mud Creek Association. Among the early settlers were: John and Thomas Holland, John Bynum and William D. Proctor. Other families who became prominent in the affairs of the county were the Sheltons and Provinces. John Shelton came from Virginia to Maynard's Cove in 1830. He reared five boys and five girls. Shepherd Shelton, born in Pittsylvania County, Virginia, in 1791, married Rosina Chapman in Lincoln County, Tennessee, in 1820, and came to this county in 1827. He died at a ripe old age of 85 years. He reared 10 children.

Maynard's Cove now has a new three-teacher school. The church buildings near this school were blown down in the cyclone that blew away Paint Rock in 1932.

#### MUD CREEK

Mud Creek was settled at a very early date. One of the three voting places named when the county was created in 1819, was "at Riley's on Mud Creek." It was here the Primitive Baptists organized the Mud Creek Association at the meeting house, on the third Saturday in November 1821. The delegates this church selected to help organize the Association were John Ham, Andrew Estes and Josiah Conn. The latter became the first Clerk. Other Baptists were Thomas Wilson, F. A. Hancock and James Taylor. Moses Bennett came from Maryland to Bennett's Cove, near Stevenson, lived there only a short while. He settled in the head of Mud Creek Valley. He is buried at Old Scraper. Major Wynn was another

prominent man that lived here. He was Major of Militia long before the Civil War.

### BIG COON

Some of the early pioneers of Big Coon were: James Allison, Jake Williams, Jud and David Tate. The latter served as Probate Judge one term after the Civil War. Charlie Allen, Buck Wynn, Ben Coffey, Nye Allen, Joe Gentry, Samuel and Thomas Shipp, William Lovelady, Crocket Austin, Potts and Knights.

### LITTLE COON

Those who lived here were: James Matthews, Edmond McCrary, Laxton Rash, General Austin, Jackson Grider, the Carltons and Gibson.

### CROW CREEK

Settlers on this creek were: Matthew Tally, James, Jerry and Bud Arnold. James Matthews came from Virginia to East Tennessee, thence to Jackson County. William and Jeremiah Matthews lived on Crow Creek near the line; George West, George Rice, James and Clay Caperton, Charlie Sutter, Andrew McCoy, John, William, Stephen, Archibald Sutton, and John Roland. Hartway Matthews, Mark Holder and John Holder served in the Florida War.

Settlers near Anderson and Bass were: Randolph Gonce, "Squire Jacoway, Newton Gonce, John and Jordan Peacock, William Rodgers, William Fergason and Willis Jacoway. Will Farris ran a saw mill. Peacock ran a saw mill; Wilce Gonce had a tannery; Jacob Tally had a gin in the thirties on Crow Creek, which was burned.

### McMAHAN'S COVE

Northeast of Stevenson is McMahan's Cove. It was settled at an early date. Near its mouth was located



Bolivar, which was at one time an important place. Here the second oldest Masonic Lodge was organized in the county, but when the railroad came and the town of Stevenson was built, Bolivar soon was killed.

The first postmaster at Bolivar, 1834, was Lem Gilliam, who served to January 31, 1841. The next postmaster was J. W. Lanahan; the next postmaster, 1845, was George F. Overdeer. The next man was William G. King, 1849, and the last postmaster was J. F. Martin. The office was discontinued April 11, 1853. About this date Stevenson Post Office was established with J. H. Gibson as postmaster. The postoffice receipts in 1837 show that Bolivar was next to Bellefonte. It was the second best office in the county. Ten years later the receipts had fallen off more than half.

#### DORAN'S COVE

Near the State line north of Bolivar is Doran's Cove. The oldest house in the county was built by Major James Doran (some say Major Ray Doran), who lived for many years among the Indians. James Russell was an early settler. Berry Johnson settled in King's Cove in 1828. The Blalocks and Robert Jones were pioneers. Scrugg and Verner settled at Mt. Carmel.

Edgefield is three and one-half miles from Stevenson near the mouth of the McMahan's Cove. The log school house was built just after the close of the Civil War. Captain Cephas Graham and Johnson Hackworth did most in building this house. It was used as a church house by both the Methodists and the Cumberland Presbyterians. On the side of the mountain nearby, Johnson Hackworth built an over-shot water mill to grind corn and wheat. He ground a great deal of wheat for farmers who lived quite a distance away. This mill was built before the Civil War.

## CANEY COVE

On the south side of the Southern Railroad some three miles south of Lim Rock is Caney Cove. Here lived Jeremiah Brown, the father of Hon. J. E., C. W. and John Brown, when he first came to the county. Other settlers there were Grundy and William Petty, Dabner and Thomas Wisdom. A little later, Thos. A. Gattis came.

## ASPEL

Before the county was established, Brooks Smith came and settled here. He was born in Ireland, came to Virginia and lived a while before coming to Jackson County. He was the father of Gabe, Dr. Barton B. Smith, Sr., Preston, and Captain Henry F. Smith. Some of the Smiths have lived on the old home place ever since the first settlement. Other settlers: John Vernon, Jobe Wells, Joseph Barclay, John Dulaney, Old Buchanan, "Bucky" Wright, Calvin Wright, Tom Huggins, William and James B. Maples.

There has been a Methodist Church at Aspel for years. The school and post office have been discontinued. The school children are carried to the Lim Rock school. The old stage road from Huntsville to Bellefonte passed this place.

## SAUTA CREEK

This creek is sometimes called North Sauta Creek, because there is a creek by the same name on the south side of the Tennessee River. The headwaters of Sauta Creek are in the coves north of Lim Rock and Larkinsville. This creek played a prominent part in the settlement of Jackson County. For some distance from its mouth, it was the boundary line between Jackson and Decatur counties. East of this creek was the village of Sauta, the first County Seat of Jackson County. On the west side a little nearer the river is Sauta Cove which became so famous in

war times. A little farther south is Dry Cove. Some of the settlers were James Daniels, Thomas Mitchell, the Guffeys, James Gayle and Jonathan Mitchell.

#### DODSONVILLE

Still farther south near the Jackson-Marshall County line is Dodsonville in the Tennessee River valley. This place was named for William Dodson who came from East Tennessee in 1818, to this county. The Post Office was established in 1830, and Jacob Gross, son of John Gross, was appointed postmaster and served until after 1855, with the exception of four years, 1835 to 1839. Gilbreath Barton served and kept the office just across the line in Marshall County. Long after the Civil War, there was a weekly mail route from Larkinsville to Dodsonville. New Hope Methodist Church was organized before the war. Settlers were: Sampson Bishop, the Gross, the Evans, the McKameys, the Chadics and the Skeltons.

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#### CUMBERLAND MOUNTAIN SETTLEMENTS

##### NAT

Nat was named for Nat Wisdom who settled on the mountain before the Civil War. There were only a few families living on this part of the mountain until Green Academy was built in 1890. They were: Nat Wisdom, Charley Owens, Ben Tribble, Jake Allen, Gideon Radford and Sampson Rush. The latter lived just west of the Coffey Narrows. Many settlers came to Nat to get the benefit of the school. At one time there were 75 votes in this precinct. This was before women were allowed the ballot. Now the same beat could not poll more than fifteen votes with the women included.

A mail route was established from Woodville to Nat, and for a few years it was extended up the mountain a few miles to Culver, but when Rural Route No. 2 was established from Woodville, the post office and star route were discontinued. There is a school building and a church house on this part of the mountain.

James Coffey lived at the Narrows. Going up the mountain one would find the following settlers: David Flournow, Newton Flipppo, James Hartman, Fet Claytor, father of Can Claytor; Lige West and Gene McAllister, near the "Sinks" which bears his name. Farther up the mountain are John, Thomas and Elijah Gentle.

#### WININGER

The Post Office was named for Solomon Winger, who had come from Virginia and settled on the mountain at an early date. A star mail route from Larkinsville supplied this office.

A Northern Methodist Church is located here. Fred Tidwell sells goods and kept the post office until it was discontinued. James Shelton had been postmaster many years. There is a school here. E. P. Cowart and William E. Haskins lived on this part of the mountain. The Post Office was Letcher, which has lately been discontinued.

Sanders is situated eight miles north of Tupelo, on top of Cumberland Mountain just above the head of Mud Creek. This part of the mountain was sparsely settled. It was owned by Dr. F. D. Pierce Land Company. The U. S. Government built 200 homes here in 1935, as a relief project.

George Dolberry was postmaster at Alto, but the office has been discontinued. Settlers: Sanders, Cornelisons, Tubbs, Dolberry and Woodalls.

Hytop on Cumberland Mountain is five and one-half miles of the State line. The Post Office was established in 1894. William Mashburn, Sr., was

the first postmaster. His son has kept the office a number of years. Settlers: Mash and John Sanders and William Mashburn.

#### KEEL'S MOUNTAIN

Keel's Mountain is on the west side of Paint Rock River in the southwest part of the county. The Madison-Jackson County line crosses this mountain leaving about one-third in Jackson County. It gets its name from Jesse Keel who settled at the Chalybeate Spring on the point of the mountain above the town of Paint Rock, in 1841. At one time this mountain was pretty well settled, with a church and school here. Coal is mined for use in the county. Robert L. Butler owns a greater part of the mountain in Jackson County.

#### LONG HOLLOW

Long Hollow is situated about one and a half miles southeast of Larkinsville, and about three miles south of Scottsboro. The valley runs in a north and south direction, and is bounded on the east by July Mountain, on the west by a chain of low ridges. Just south of this valley is "Sauta Creek Bottoms." This valley is two and one-half miles long and one mile wide. In the cemetery are buried some people of note. John McCutchen (born in 1755, died in 1835), a Revolutionary soldier, whose grave was marked by the Tidence Lane Chapter, D. A. R., October 22, 1931.

Allen Robinson's home was located at one of the finest springs in the county. Early settlers: James Steely, John Hembree, William Giddens, Charley Wood, Cary Staples and Edward Cotton. The last two lived near the "House of Happiness".

#### WOOD'S COVE

Wood's Cove is east of July (or Poorhouse) Mountain and near Scottsboro on the southwest. It took



its name from Thomas J. Wood, an early pioneer settler. He was born in South Carolina. His wife was born in East Tennessee. They were married more than sixty years ago, reared fifteen children and were one of the finest families in the whole county. There were two churches in this cove, one for the white people and the other for the colored people, Early settlers: T. J. Wood, Daniel Freeman, R. Z. Giddens, Lee Mordah, George Wilhelms, James E. Gayle, George Allen and Andy Roundsival.

#### COVES ON SOUTH SIDE TENNESSEE RIVER

Jones' Cove is between the River and Sand Mountain up from Sublett's Ferry. There are about ten families living in the cove. The school house has been moved down on the main road nearer the river.

South Coon Valley is farther up the River nearer Stevenson. The head waters of South Coon Creek are east of Flat Rock on Sand Mountain. This valley had no Post Office until Richard M. Seay was appointed Postmaster in 1900. It was largely through his untiring efforts, the Yucca Post Office was established. The people had no mail service, except to cross the river and go to Stevenson, a distance of nearly ten miles, for their mail. This rich valley has been the home of some of Jackson County's most prominent citizens. On the farm of Lee Brewer a sycamore tree grew eleven feet and five inches in diameter. This tree was cut in 1873 by Waldrop, Ward and Gipson.

Island Creek Cove is near Bridgeport, just across the Tennessee River.

Hog Jaw Valley is nearby, lying between Backbone Ridge and Sand Mountain. It became well known during the early part of the Civil War as the place where a company of the First Alabama Viadet Union Cavalry was organized by Captain Rufus Jordan.

## ISLANDS

The largest Island in the Tennessee River in the County is Long Island, crossed by the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad at Bridgeport. It contains about 700 acres, all of which, except about 30 acres on the upper end, cut off into Tennessee by the State line, is in Jackson County. It is a beautiful and rich body of land.

There are two other Islands, containing about or near 100 acres each. One is known as the Crow Creek, or Cross Island, or Coffey Island. It was owned in 1873 by Gen. John R. Coffey. The other Island was known as the Rector, Mud Creek, or Caldwell Island. It is situated near Old Bellefonte and was owned by Hamlin Caldwell in 1873.

## CHAPTER XXX.

### Towns on Railroad

#### PAINT ROCK

JOHN KENNAMER owned most of the land upon which the town of Camden, now Paint Rock, was built. His log cabin stood near the foot of the mountain, not far from the present home of E. R. Popejoy. He was one of the commissioners appointed by the Legislature to select a County Site for Decatur County in 1821. Jesse Keel settled near the railroad not far from the point of the mountain northwest of the town in 1829. He came from Tar River, North Carolina. John Redman was another early settler. It is said he came from South Carolina in 1835. He ran a boatyard on the river and kept an inn to lodge the stage coach passengers.

Camden Post Office was established in 1836. J. Newberry was the Postmaster. John Redman was appointed Postmaster in 1837, and served ten years. In 1847, the name of the office was changed to Redman and Augustus Lilly served as Postmaster. The mail came on the stage coach from Huntsville to Bellefonte. Goods were hauled in wagons from Nashville, Tennessee. Jake Crews did much of this hauling, making a round trip in a week or ten days.

Pleasant Woodall and Stephen E. Kennamer sold groceries and liquor before the Civil War. Canada Butler began to sell goods about the time the railroad was built. Other settlers were Samuel Mead, Peter Smith, Claiborne and William Hill who came at an early date. The name of the Post Office was changed back to Camden in the 1850's. The name Camden was changed to Paint Rock in 1876. Camden depot was built in 1856.

The Confederate Scouts (or Bushwhackers) cut down some telegraph poles and shot into a train of Federals at Camp's Cut, about one mile from the depot. The train was backed to the station and much of the town was burned. The depot was held by the Federals and was, therefore, not burned.

There were three business houses just after the Civil War: Moses Keel, Bill Hill and Rock McCullough. Paint Rock has been visited by three cyclones. The first, on Monday, January 17, 1870, early in the morning. The storm came out of the southwest and blew down the brick depot, Bill Hill's store and some other buildings. The second one came out of the west and struck the town about 7 o'clock P.M., April 25, 1880, demolishing five dwellings as follows: Mike Price's, Frank Price's, J. C. Redman's, Mat Sullivan's cabin, and one other cabin. The third storm came at 7:05 P.M., March 21, 1932. This storm wrought havoc to the town, blowing down about one-half of the dwellings, damaging others. It nearly wiped out the business part of town. The Hosiery Mill was destroyed. Russel Jones, Patsy Moore, colored, 96, Richard Irwin and Joe Smith were killed and about fifteen were injured.

#### PAINT ROCK MILL

In the Fall of 1879, George G. Lily had built a water mill to grind corn and wheat. The millwright work was done by E. G. Morris of South Alabama. The mill, complete, was bought from Christiana Machine Company, Christiana, Pa. Mr. Morris built Walker's Mill and also Butler's Mill.

#### PENCIL MILL

In 1897, Otto Gudenrath, of New York, put up a pencil factory, which at that time employed about 65 persons. Three years later he sold it to the Gulf Red Cedar Company. They enlarged it to give work to

about 175 persons. It was moved in 1911 to Tennessee.

Canada Butler, the youngest brother of Jim Ed and Taylor Butler, began selling goods at Paint Rock in the late eighteen-eighties, and did well until his death. Taylor Butler, as his administrator, took charge of the store and ran it, taking Robert Butler as a partner. Robert soon withdrew and began business for himself. Canada Butler, son of Jim Ed Butler, entered the firm and in a few years C. M. Rousseau joined the firm, which was now called Butler, Rousseau & Co. The business is now run by Mr. Rousseau and sons.

Dave and Izzie Vorenburg, Jews, sold goods a few years in the town.

During the stay of the pencil factory the town grew and prospered. Harry Hill installed a water works system in 1910. He still owns it.

A lime and cement plant at the foot of Keel's Mountain, near the town, was operated a few years.

The Methodist, Missionary Baptist and the Church of Christ are all located in the town. The school is well located and uses five teachers.

## WOODVILLE

WOODVILLE is one of the oldest towns in Jackson County. It is said that it received its name from Mr. Richard Wood, who later moved to Sand Mountain and settled at Fern Cliff. Old Woodville was situated three-fourths of a mile east of the present town on the old stage road which ran from Huntsville to Bellefonte. In 1821, Decatur County was created out of parts of Madison and Jackson Counties, with Woodville as the county seat. Heseekiah Bayless was the County Court Judge.

When the Memphis and Charleston Railroad (now the Southern) was built through the county it passed three-fourths of a mile west of Old Woodville; so the



town was moved to the railroad. Woodville is situated in a rich valley just south of the foothills of the Cumberland Mountains and four miles north of Kennamer Cove.

In the late eighteen-twenties, settlers came to Old Woodville from different places and the town grew and prospered in the eighteen-thirties. Town lots were in demand and sold readily. Merchants at this period were David and Andy Moore, John Gillinwater, William Dwier, Joseph Matheny, Cleve Robinson, Clay Shelton and Presley Woodall. William Isom was a blacksmith. James Wright made guns. Hawky P. Bevel and Rufus H. Jones were woodworkmen. There is only one dwelling house standing that was built before the town was moved to the railroad. It was the home of Dr. L. Derrick and is now owned by Silas P. Woodall. Doctors in Old Woodville were Clopton, Stephens, Derrick and Allen. Doctor Allen moved to Coffeetown, Dr. Solomon S. Stephens was killed in the Civil War. There was never a church house in Old Woodville.

The Post Office was established September 3, 1823. William Hainey was the Postmaster. The next Postmaster was Hiram Ross, appointed August 25, 1826. Other Postmasters were Henry Derrick, Alfred Moore, John Gillenwater, William H. Fowler, Seaborn I. Rountree, Migginson Loving, Seaborn I. Rountree, Albert G. Clopton, James H. Stephens, Joel P. Ledbetter, Robert P. Mackey, Clement C. Shelton, Joel P. Ledbetter, Murphy Matheny and Robert P. Mackey. The Post Office was moved to Woodville on the railroad. John J. Dillard became Postmaster January 16, 1860. Jasper N. Matheny was appointed Postmaster December 31, 1860, when Dillard joined the Confederate Army. Other Postmasters were Mrs. Mary Evans and John Wright. The office was discontinued February 14, 1870, but it

was re-established June 1, 1870, with William P. Guynn as Postmaster. He was followed as Postmaster by John A. Brown, Andrew J. Wann, David A. Thomas, Frank Bishop, George R. Hodges, Ira G. Wood, John F. Bishop, George R. Hodges, Robert F. Lawing, George R. Hodges, Emmet Woodall, John R. Kennamer and Elwin Page, acting.

The following were in business between the building of the railroad and the Civil War: John J. Dillard erected the first business house in the present town of Woodville; Jasper N. Matheny sold groceries and liquor; Wiley Irwin sold the same; Joel P. Ledbetter, Green and Dove Stephens, Henry Higgins and Shant Ross. After the war, William P. Guynn and John A. Brown sold dry goods; David L. Hall, Erwin & Co., Tim Perkins, J. M. Nelson and Luna Bowers sold liquor. In 1871, John A. Brown sold liquor retail and F. W. Ledbetter sold liquor wholesale.

Other men who were in business later: James R. Woodall, David A. Thomas, Andrew J. Wann, W. H. Woodall, George W. Bulman, P. H. & J. B. Woodall, Frank Henry, Dave Allison, James L. Chambless, Woodall and Stephens, L. H. Woodall, Jones Bros., J. R. Kennamer & Co., E. Woodall, Will Wann, Campbell & Maples, Butler and Kennamer, Jones & Barclay, P. E. Kennamer, Kennamer Bros.

The Primitive Baptist church house was one and one-fourth miles north of Woodville, in Union cemetery. Union Church joined the Mud Creek Association in 1835. It has always been the largest church in that association.

The Methodists erected a church house in 1873. John A. Brown and family lead in this work. J. M. Hamer was the first minister to serve this church. Others who preacher here were, Dr. J. N. Scott, Wilson, Hunkapiller and M. E. Johnson. The Methodists built a new house in the town about 1912.

The Missionary Baptists began the erection of a church house one-half mile east of Old Woodville, shortly after the Civil War, but for lack of funds and not getting a good title to the land, the house was never completed. The present church house was erected in 1931, in the town.

The Church of Christ building was erected in the summer of 1913.

Woodville was incorporated May 12, 1880. Dr. D. H. Little was the first Mayor. The Aldermen were Jas. R. Woodall, W. H. Woodall, W. P. Guynn, Luna Bowers and D. L. Hall. On February 18, 1897, the incorporation was killed by Act of the Legislature.

The town was again incorporated in 1912.

#### SCHOOLS

Before the Civil War, schools were taught in a log house which stood near the home of D. C. Kennamer. Robert P. Mackey, Mack Grizzle and Silas P. Woodall, Sr., taught here. A school house was built on land of Dr. Dillard, south of town. As the title to the school site was not good, the school building was moved to land of Rufus H. Jones, on "Tick Ridge". In 1880 a school building was built in the northern part of the town. Before this date a few schools were taught in the Methodist church house. In 1905 a new and better school building of three rooms was erected one-half mile west of town, near the railroad.

In 1923 the present High School building was built. Principals of this school were Miss Mary Shipp, K. E. Boykin, Clark Hodgins, W. R. Riley and Julian Butler. Some additions have been made from time to time. It was made an accredited High School in April 1935. They now use nine teachers.

#### LIM ROCK

The town of Lim Rock was first called Boy'd Switch. The name was changed to Lim Rock in 1882. Col. Walter S. Gordon gave the Methodist

Church \$100, on condition that the name of the village be changed from Boy'd Switch to Lim Rock. The name was promptly changed. There was a large lime kiln there, run by Col. F. O. Hurt. Gordon Brothers had a big stave mill and tan-yard. The stave mill was run by Otis and Durrett. The town grew and settlers from other parts of the county located here.

#### THE RAILROAD BUILT

In April 1879, Major E. C. Gordon, brother of General John B. Gordon brought about thirty-five men from Huntsville and began building the railroad from Lim Rock to the Belmont Coal Mines near the top of Cumberland Mountains—a distance of nearly six miles. This road ran through Gentle's Cove. Belmont Coal Company began shipping coal in September 1879. The Company had a contract to furnish the M. & C. Railroad for five years, all the coal this road would burn. They had other large orders. There were 107 convicts, mostly negroes, who worked in this mine. On complaint made to the authorities that the convicts were being mistreated, Judge Nelson Kyle and the commissioners made investigation and reported, February 1880, favorable for Messrs. Gordons, the owners of the mines.

New York capitalists bought the mines in 1881, and made Harrison G. Otis of New York, superintendent. The Gordons went to South Alabama to build railroads. In 1907, Dr. F. D. Pierce and brother, Dr. R. V. Pierce, of Buffalo, N. Y., bought these mines, with 16,000 acres of timber and mineral lands, extending from near Lim Rock to Mud Creek, on Cumberland Mountain. They opened up mines on Fork Mountain and mined coal a few years. Dr. F. D. Pierce had worked coal mines near Island Creek on Sand Mountain before coming to near Lim Rock.

Obe Hurt sold goods many years in Lim Rock. Mit Gentle was Postmaster in 1887, and sold goods until his death; his son, Clyde, has continued the business to the present.

There is a Southern Methodist Church, a Missionary Baptist and a Northern Methodist Church. Near the two latter churches is the new six-teacher school, which has been a great blessing to the community.

### LARKINSVILLE

Larkinsville was settled in the eighteen-twenties and named for David Larkin. At one time he was the largest land owned in the county. It has been said that one could go from Larkinsville to Larkin's Landing without getting off of his land. The latter place was also named for him. The Post Office was established about 1830, and he was the only Postmaster until the Civil War.

The country surrounding the town is one of the finest sections of farming land in the county. Larkinsville precinct was thickly settled and had the largest voting population in the county for forty years or more. During the Civil War, many soldiers were enlisted here for both the Confederate and the Union Army. William R. Larkin, son of David, was after the war one of the most progressive, energetic and outstanding citizens in the county. He was a farmer, merchant, saw mill man, and general leader in the town.

In 1873, Larkinsville had three physicians located here: Dr. J. H. Boyd, Dr. B. B. Smith and Dr. W. E. Hatcher. Dr. Smith was a man who engaged extensively in business enterprises. He was a merchant and ran a flouring mill a number of years. Other merchants were C. C. and W. T. Shelton, G. W. Lilly, Shelby & Smith. B. F. Shook was Postmaster in 1873; Zack T. Kennamer was Postmaster in 1881.



W. S. Page, Zack T. Kennamer and Andy Harper sold goods here in 1882.

When Scottsboro became the county seat, Larkinsville being so close was hurt and has not prospered as in former years. There are a Methodist, Missionary Baptist, and a Cumberland Church here. It has a two-teacher school.

## SCOTTSBORO

Scottsboro was named for Robert Thomas Scott, who came from North Carolina to Madison County, Alabama, in 1817. He moved to Bellefonte and ran a hotel. He owned the land on which Scottsboro is located. This place was called "Scottsville" at first but since there was another Scottsville in Alabama the name was changed to Scott's Mill. Mrs. Fannie V. King, writing in the *Scottsboro Citizen* in 1895, says:

"Joseph Snodgrass, David Long, Joseph Clark and John Eads, all kin by blood and marriage, who were first proprietors of Scott's Mill, long years before Scottsboro was known."

There were a mill and tan-yard up the hollow just north of the present town when the railroad was built. The station was called "Scott's Mill" until it was changed to "Scottsboro" in 1868. Scottsboro got its first telegraph office in the Fall of 1872. The brick freight depot was erected about this date.

The town was incorporated by the Alabama Legislature, January 20, 1870, and A. Snodgrass was appointed Mayor. From the estate of this pioneer Scott, three acres for a court square, a building lot for the school and to the town every other lot on the four streets bounding the public square were donated. These lots were sold at public sale at different times for two or three years, by order of the Commissioners Court.

Many of the citizens of the town are descendants of Mr. Scott. In the later years of his life, he moved from Bellefonte to the vicinity, which was then almost a wilderness. He erected a beautiful residence at the foot of Backbone Ridge, about one mile east of the public square, and lived until his untimely death in 1863. He and his wife are buried beneath the oaks on the Ridge, within a stone's throw where once stood their lovely home. His children were Dr. Robt. T. Scott, Mrs. Lucy Bynum, Mrs. Mary Parks and Mrs. Charlotte Skelton.

Scottsboro is the third county seat Jackson County has had. Sauta was the first seat of justice; two years later Bellefonte was selected by the commissioners appointed for this purpose. The county seat remained at Bellefonte until the records were moved to Scottsboro, November 13, 1868. Judge David Tate began to attend to the county's business in a little brick house near the railroad.

At first the greater part of the town was on the north side of the railroad. The great fire of February 17, 1881, burned many houses in this part of the town. In the early seventies the business houses were first to be erected near the public square and now the public square is almost surrounded by solid rows of brick buildings. Scottsboro has become the trading center of the county. With its five churches, three banks, two schools and manufacturing industry and wholesale grocery business, is one of the leading towns in North Alabama. The two newspapers are good boosters for the town and the county.

The following is a list of the Postmasters at Scottsboro: Horton, John Gilbreath, D. K. Caldwell, A. L. Hodge, L. C. Coulson, A. Snodgrass, Zack T. Kennamer, John Garland, A. Snodgrass, William A. Gold, Ernest Parks, A. H. Holland, John Tally, Jr., A. H. Holland.

Merchants in 1872 were, M. P. Brown & Co., Snodgrass & Co., John Phillips, Bynum & Brooks, M. & J. W. Moody, H. L. Martin, William Lockerd, S. B. Kirby & Co., B. C. Horton, Payne & Ellis, and S. B. Stockard.

Some of the Mayors were, A. Snodgrass, John W. Parks, A. W. Brooks, Abner Rosson, J. T. Skelton, W. J. Jackson, C. Q. Beech, H. M. Henderson, and J. D. Snodgrass. The latter has held this office longer than any other man in the state.

Scottsboro has had an efficient corps of physicians. Some of those are: H. H. Horton, A. N. Blakemore, W. C. Maples, Hugh, Ed and Andy Boyd, Nye, Burnum, Bridges and Hodges. The Hodges Hospital is well equipped and is a great asset to the town and the county.

Scottsboro has sent out to the Nation and the World some outstanding men and women: Henry Horton, late Governor of Tennessee; Lieut. Frank King, Lieut. Houston Maples, W. L. Martin and Son, Thos. W. Martin, Fred Arn, George, Frank and Bunn Bouldin, Ralph Porter, and Miss Brown, who is in the diplomatic service, and others.

## HOLLYWOOD

Hollywood is located on the Southern Railroad, a little over five miles northeast of Scottsboro. It is near the center of the county, surrounded by a fine section of farming land. Mr. Samples, of Nashville; Tennessee, first owned the land around the town, but when the railroad was built settlers came and he sold it as building lots and farms. The town was first called "Bellefonte Station", but this name was soon changed to "Samples". The name of the railroad station was "Hollywood", and to avoid confusion, the Post Office Department changed the name of the Post Office to Hollywood.

Joseph McKolip, the first permanent settler, came here in 1858, and began to sell goods. Others soon followed him and the village was soon in a thriving condition.

During the winter of 1863-64, the One Hundredth Indiana regiment of the Fifteenth Army Corps camped here. This regiment was commanded by Colonel Willox, whose headquarters were in Carter's yard at Bellefonte. This regiment left in May to join General Sherman's Army in the campaign around Dalton, Georgia.

The most important industry Hollywood ever had was the Alabama Brick and Tile Company, which was established in 1898, by Northern men. E. J. Neher, J. F. O'Haver, Henry Clark and others came from Indiana; C. M. Huntoon came from Ohio. He had had experience in tile draining in the North. The people around Hollywood were a little slow in seeing the great good to be had by draining their lands with tile, so the new company had a hard time in selling their tile. But after installing a few drainage systems here and there, the demand for drain-tile began to grow rapidly. In order to meet this demand, the company was incorporated under the name of the "Alabama Brick and Tile Company," February 1, 1909, with a capital stock of \$5,000. Two years later the plant was increased, by erecting another modern kiln, and increased the capital stock to \$10,000. It prospered a few years and was moved to Decatur, Alabama, and is managed by Willis Neher.

Hollywood has six stores, two gins, two churches, a Methodist and a Baptist. The new five-teacher school building was completed in 1928. Professors J. H. Jernigan, J. E. Hinshaw and Cecil Hodges have served as principals of this school, which does ninth grade work.

## FACKLER

Fackler is on the Southern Railroad, six miles west of Stevenson. It is not an old town. There was one store here in 1873. It now has five or six stores and two gins. The churches and school are the average to be found in the county. J. M. Guffey came from Pisgah and was Postmaster for years. Other leading citizens were the Roaches, I. E. Sanders, J. B. Campbell and Hays.

WANNVILLE, situated near the Tennessee River, southeast of Fackler, has two stores and a church house. The Post Office was named for W. A. J. Wann. His son, Charley Wann, kept the office twenty-six years.

## STEVENSON

Henderson Price first owned the land on which the town of Stevenson is situated. The first settlers came here about 1825, mostly from Tennessee and Virginia, and a few small cabins were erected. The names of these settlers are: James Hogen, F. M. Pankey, R. Hatfield, Luke Willis, Lee Metts, John Blake, F. M. McMahan, William Russell, George Rogers, Tom Osborne, G. W. Rice and Dr. James Russell. N. B. Burch was one of the first merchants. John R. Coffey went to Stevenson in 1853 and sold goods until the Civil War. James Hogue was a merchant here at this date.

The town gets its name from B. K. Stevenson, who, with John F. Anderson bought the land from Henderson Price, and laid off town lots about the time the first railroad was built. The Nashville and Chattanooga Railway was built in 1851-52. The M. & C. was built about two years later.

Many of the young men in and around Stevenson joined the Confederate Army. In 1861, Captain Ragsdale led a company from Stevenson to Fort



Morgan. The part Stevenson took in the Civil War is told in the Chapter on War.

The Bolivar Masonic Lodge was moved to Stevenson and a two-story building was erected for the Lodge.

Some of the business men after the Civil War were: F. E. and W. H. McMahan, W. H. Washington, G. W. Thorton, H. M. Bunn and J. P. and J. S. Timberlake. Other citizens, W. W. Rosser, J. F. Martin, W. M. Cowan, "Squire" William McMahan, Capt. C. D. Stoner, Drs. T. T. Cotnam and P. H. Helton. Stevenson has had from one to two good hotels all along, and livery stables in their day,—which are now supplanted by up-to-date garages.

#### MANUFACTURES

There had been small manufactories in the town previous to 1900. The Broadus's Cotton Mill was built here that year. This was indeed an asset to the growth of the town. Three or four years later a hub factory was built, which was run eight years by T. C. Campbell.

On the 14th of May, 1910, the great fire swept away the business part of the town, except five or six business houses. These burned houses were replaced by more substantial brick buildings. The town now has electric lights, good water works, cotton mills and other manufacturing enterprises. Stevenson has furnished more men in the railroad service than any other town in the county.

The first church services were held in the Masonic building. Those leading in this work were Ben Jacoway, Al Joiner and P. B. Timberlake. Later the Brick Church (now the Baptist) was built as a union church house for all denominations. The town grew and church houses were erected by the Methodists, Cumberland Presbyterians and the Church of Christ.

The High School was built in 1922 and was ac-

credited in 1928. Miss Mattie Cargile was the first principal. She was followed by J. F. Hodges, who served four years. H. L. Nipper served one year. L. W. Jordan has served since September 1929.

## BRIDGEPORT

Bridgeport is located amid the beautiful hills on the west bank of the Tennessee River in the extreme northeastern part of Jackson County, on the Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis Railroad. It acquired its name from the bridges across the river by the railroad and the establishing of a river port for the exchange of rail shipments to steamboats and vice versa.

The Post Office was established October 1, 1854, and called Jonesville. John W. Alley was the Postmaster. The name of the Post Office was changed to Bridgeport, December 15, 1854, using the same Postmaster.

In the latter part of 1887, a boom struck Bridgeport and the growth of the town was swift and phenomenal. Frank J. Kilpatrick of New York, together with other Northern men of wealth and influence, came here and spent their money in erecting many costly buildings, both for business and for dwellings. The beautiful Kilpatrick Hotel, erected on Battery Hill overlooking the Tennessee River, would have done credit to almost any city. The town was incorporated February 18, 1891, with extensive town limits, which reached to the eastern bank of the river, and extended quite a distance along the river. Frank J. Kilpatrick was elected the first Mayor. It now looked like Bridgeport was destined to be a great commercial and manufacturing city, but the great panic of 1893-94 came and ruined the well planned boom city. The great Hotel was torn down and removed to Sewanee, Tennessee.

When the City Court was created by the Legislature in the early part of 1893, Governor Thomas G. Jones appointed W. L. Stephens Judge of said Court, March 2, 1893. Mr. Stephens was a grandson of David Larkin. Sam W. Tate then served as City Court Judge until the court was killed by the Legislature in December, 1898. He moved to Scottsboro, April 1, 1899, and opened a law office. He soon moved to Anniston and practiced law until death.

Elmer P. Jacobs is Mayor, runs a bank, the stove works, owns quite a good deal of real estate and is a factor in the upbuilding of the city. Bridgeport has long been noted for its manufacturers, its churches, schools, and its high class citizens.

#### NEWSPAPERS

The *Bridgeport News* was established in 1890, by W. W. Douglas and E. L. C. Ward. Since then the paper has changed hands several times. George R. Van Arsdale owned and edited the paper awhile; C. D. Cargile, who once owned the *Stevenson Chronicle*, was editor of the *Bridgeport News* in 1915. The paper has suspended publication more than once for a short time. It is now known as the *Bridgeport News-Herald*. R. C. Hornbeak is Editor and manager; F. W. Carr, owner and publisher.

#### HIGH SCHOOL

The Bridgeport High School was organized in the Fall of 1923, in the old Whitcher building. The school was accredited the first year. Mr. Chisom and two assistants, Miss Daisy Parton and Miss Daniels, were the teachers. The second year, Miss Jewel Carmack (now Mrs. John Tanner) taught Home Economics, a position she had held ten years. In the Spring of 1925, the school was moved into a new twelve-room brick building where it remained for the next five years, when the town bought the Tennessee River

Institute buildings. O. C. Robinson was principal in 1925; L. S. McLeod was principal from 1926 to 1928; Harold Foster was principal 1928-29; H. T. Stanford became principal in the Fall of 1929. The school has grown rapidly.

The Grammar School, under the guidance of Wilson F. Gonce, is one of the largest in the county.

### CARPENTER, OR LONG ISLAND

Carpenter Station is the first village in Jackson County, west of Chattanooga, a distance of twenty-five miles, on the N. C. & St. L. Railroad. It was named for a family of Carpenters who had come from Arkansas and settled here. The Post Office was called Long Island, being situated near Long Island in the Tennessee River. Dave Troop, a Federal soldier, was the first Postmaster. He also was a merchant. Then came the late M. P. James, who also served as Postmaster and merchant. This family of James' have been prominent in affairs of Long Island.

William Christian, grandfather of Dr. S. H. and C. L. James, and Mrs. C. H. Bynum, was a large landowner and a Justice of the Peace for many years.

Carpenter Station is a trading and shipping point for a considerable Sand Mountain, as well as valley population.

## CHAPTER XXXI.

### Coffeetown, Langston and Sand Mountain

COFFEETOWN took its name from four brothers who settled here after the Cherokee Indians were moved to the West in 1836-38. Their names were Brent, Hugh, John and Gig Coffee. All went to Texas before the Civil War. Coffeetown was located on the south side of the Tennessee River about one mile from Langston toward the Marshall County line. There was one log store building in which the Post Office was kept. Langston Coffee was the first Postmaster, in 1845. E. Mack Floyd was the Postmaster in 1849. H. J. McPherson was Postmaster until September 30, 1855, after which John Snodgrass was Postmaster. Others who sold goods in Coffeetown were Van Dike, Jerre Williams and David Langston. The latter also went to Texas.

There is an old cemetery, known as the Coffeetown Cemetery, in a neglected place, which has a few markers and a few rock mounds. No one has been buried there since the Civil War. A few graves are marked as follows: Nancy, wife of N. J. Snodgrass (b. 1820, d. 1848); Leann Vaught (1793-1840); Pollyann Coffee (1833-1838). Some thirty persons are buried here. There is no vestage of a town to be seen at the present.

#### LANGSTON

In 1869, James Morgan sold fifteen acres in town lots, and Langston came into existence and Coffeetown died. The people thought they would get a railroad up the south side of the Tennessee River to Chattanooga, but it never was built.



Long before the Civil War, there was a Methodist Church here. William Rhodes and Stewart—circuit riders—would walk on their rounds, taking about two months to cover it, preaching nearly every day and night. There are two churches in Langston, one the Methodist and the other the Cumberland Presbyterian. The Methodists have had four houses; the first two were log houses, one of them burned. The third house was a frame building, and the present house is made of cement. The Cumberland Presbyterians have had two houses. The first one was blown down when the cyclone struck Albertville about 1909. The present house is a frame building.

The first mail route was on the north side of the river, from Bellefonte to Guntersville by stage coach. Later the route was changed to cross at Larkin's Landing via Coffeetown to Guntersville. Joe Jones was carrier on this last route. Mike Gilbreath was Postmaster at Langston after the Civil War. He was followed by Lavid Langston, Sam Rains, Silas Smith, Caleb Griggs, Claude Jones, Miss Rose Wilhelm, and J. A. Mitchell. Merchants: Silas Smith, Andy Grantham, Webb & Morgan, Davis & Haralson, Frank Fennell, Dr. Adkins and J. H. Myers. The town has three stores, now.

Dr. Wiley was the first physician, whose residence was at the Plum Orchard. Dr. Allen, who came from Tennessee, lived a few years in Old Woodville, moved to Coffeetown, lived many years, and died at Meltonsville in Marshall County, some twelve miles from Langston. He was a large man.

SOUTH SAUTA CREEK took its name from an old Indian who lived on it. This creek forms part of the boundary line between DeKalb and Jackson and also the boundary between Marshall and Jackson counties, and empties into the Tennessee River four miles below North Sauta. South Sauta Creek flows through the deep gorge known so well as "Buck's

Pocket". This latter place is picturesque, indeed, and should be more widely used as a resort.

The strip of land between South Sauta Creek and the Tennessee River in Jackson County, was named by Andy Grantham, "Hog Jaw". This is not the "Hog Jaw Valley" further up the river near Bridgeport.

Coffeetown and Langston were near the great Indian passage across the Tennessee River, at the Shoals just above Pine Island. The Indian village of *Coosada* was a small settlement of Creeks and Cherokees, established about 1784, and situated on the south bank of Tennessee River near Larkin's Landing. Many Indians would pass from Coffeetown up Gosset Gap to Sand Mountain to Fort Payne.

The Indians panned out gold found in the sand of the river and traded it to the whites for guns, knives and other things. They used cane joints to carry this gold.

Many soldiers, both Federal and Confederate, passed this part of the county during the Civil War, and several skirmishes along this part of the river or near it occurred.

Langston has a nice school building with a teacher's cottage nearby, nicely located. The following are some of the men who have lived or are now living here: Willis P. Moore, Nathaniel Willborn, Pony Stephens, George W. Jones, L. D. Willborn, Henry Wilhelms, William Myers, Tom Ed and Charley Morgan, R. C. Moore, James Wilhelms, Tom White, Fred A. Michaels, the Bensons, Vaughnts, Campbells, Gilbreaths, Pattersons, Gists, Stanfields, and others.

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## SAND MOUNTAIN

Sand Mountain is not a mountain in the ordinary sense, but a plateau with a summit ranging from

1100 to 1600 feet above the sea-level and about 700 feet above the Tennessee River Valley on the west. It extends across the southetstern part of the county a distance of nearly fifty miles and is some five to ten miles of its western border in Jackson County. The soil is nearly all fine sandy loam, with a little sand stone near the small streams. There are some picturesque gorges on this mountain; the one near Pisgah is bold, beautiful and inspiring. No one should think of visiting the "Rockies" or the scenes in Switzerland, without first having seen the many beautiful scenes on Sand Mountain, and other places in the county.

Beginning near the southwestern part of the mountain overlooking Langston, one will find a village every five or six miles until he reaches Flat Rock. The first village is Macedonia, the next is Section, then Duton, Pisgah, Rosalie and Flat Rock. The country north of the latter place is sparsely settled for about fifteen miles, and is often called the "Big Woods." Beyond this is Bryant in the northeastern part of the county.

#### MACEDONIA

Macedonia is a new town on Sand Mountain in the southeastern part of the county, in Haigwood precinct. This town has been built since 1926. It has five stores, two churches and a five-teacher school. Macedonia Primitive Baptist Church is located in the town. The Missionary Baptists have a church here also. There are some Holiness congregations out in the country round about. Principals of the school were Marvin Rains, Ernest Horton, J. R. Kennamer, Jr., and R. M. Martin. Early settlers were the Culpeppers, Phillips, Cooks, Wellborns, Britts, Allens, Jones and Harpers.

#### SECTION

Section is on the top of Sand Mountain, just west of the new highway from the New Comer Bridge to

Fort Payne. It is surrounded by a good body of farming land. The town is named from the Section of School land located here. The School district was created by Act of Legislature, February 15, 1897. This part of the mountain was not thickly settled until long after the Civil War. Those settling in the community before the war were: Thomas Galloway, William Gossett, Joe Beesley, James Galloway, Solomon Easley and Ezekiel Stringer.

The first school house was erected in 1853. Ezekiel Stringer taught the first school. He was followed by William Gossett as teacher in this house. There was no trace of this building to be found after the war was over. The people suffered during the Civil War from foraging parties of soldiers camped at Larkin's Landing.

Citizens living on the mountain in 1866, not already named, were Butler and Granville Tipton, William and John Carter, Alfred Hamilton, Osborne Durham, John Battles, John Witt, Richard Wood, John Black, Delaney Chisenhall, Jim Reed, George Morris, Charley Skelton and Doctors Patterson and Eugene Smith.

The first store in Section was built in 1889, by Colman Bower. He was followed in a few years by J. J. Chambers, who was the Postmaster. Other merchants were L. K. Shankle and Chattin. After the death of Mr. Shankle, Mr. McCord sold goods. In 1899, J. A. Williams bought the Chamber's store. J. W. Downey and Webb sold goods. D. I. Durham sold goods a few years. T. B. Phillips started business in 1909. There were many changes and some failures in the business world. The little town has not grown much in late years.

Section has a M. E. Church building, erected about 1895. The Baptist Church house was built in 1919.

#### *Schools*

The first school building in the town was a two-

story frame building, with one room on each floor. When the first school building was destroyed by fire in 1890, a larger two-story building was erected on the same lot. Some twenty-five years later this building was burned and the present house was built. Principals: Mr. Baker, Jasper Auston, Miss Mattie Chattin, S. E. Winston, Nate Smith, Chester Allen, Mr. Sutherland, I. J. Browder, Mr. Bethune, Jesse T. Bain, V. D. Nichols, Neil Smith, and J. R. Kennamer, Jr.

The Post Office when established in 1875, was called Mt. Zion. Mr. House was the Postmaster. It was moved to where Isiah John lives and was called Kirby Creek. Ben Fossett was Postmaster in 1885. It was then moved to Section and Mr. Shankles served as Postmaster until his death. Mr. Hembree, Mr. Pettygrew, Mr. McCord all served as Postmasters. Mr. Chaney has served since 1924.

#### FERN CLIFF

Fern Cliff, situated on the brow of Sand Mountain like an eagle on its aerie, looks out over the broad and rich Tennessee Valley spread out at its feet. The river winds like a silver thread through the center of this valley. Beyond appear the river hills with Scottsboro nestling in their midst, and in the distance the Cumberland Mountains may be seen clothed in a purple haze, presenting a scene of quiet and peaceful beauty that would be hard to surpass.

This place was originally settled about 1852, by former residents of Woodville, persons from whom the town took its name, Richard Wood and beloved wife, Annie. This aged couple spent twenty years here at this beautiful resort, with the healthful water and cool invigorating air. Mr. Wood sold his mountain home and Chalybeate spring in September 1872, to Capt. Henry J. Cheney of Nashville, Tenn. Capt. Cheney owned that unexcelled tract of land on the



south side of Tennessee River, known as the "Stratton Farm." Captain Cheney improved the Cliff residence which became a very popular resort. He and Mr. Johnson built a road up the mountain in 1876. As deer and turkeys were plentiful in those days, Capt. Cheney, with others, would hunt for a week or ten days each fall and would return laden with venison and turkey.

Captain Cheney sold the valley farm to Jerre Williams and Anderson Hess. He sold the Fern Cliff property to Hugh Farrior. Mr. Farrior came from South Georgia. He made the Cliff famous far and wide, by the splendid hospitality of his family. Foster V. Brown, one of the smartest lawyers in Tennessee, married Miss Lula Farrior. Mr. Farrior sold the place to John Harris of Scottsboro. Mr. Harris sold it to a syndicate of Northern capitalists. Mr. T. N. Haynes improved the house and premises. It is now owned by J. A. Williams, Marvin Campbell and others.

Mr. Wood and wife lived near there until death, and were buried in Mt. Zion cemetery. We understand that Annie Wood was before her marriage, a Lemons. She was a sister of Old Samuel Butler's wife.

#### DUTTON

Dutton is on Sand Mountain midway between Section and Pisgah. The town is well located in a beautiful place, surrounded by a good farming section. It was named for M. M. Dutton, a pioneer settler who built the first store one mile northwest of the present town. He got the U. S. Post Office Department to establish a Post Office and named it Dutton. He was made Postmaster. Dutton is a good business point and has some live merchants. The citizens of the town and surrounding country are a splendid class of people, who believe in schools and

churches. The purest strains of the Anglo-Saxon race are on Sand Mountain.

The first school house was built in 1886, about one mile southeast of the present site. This log school house, 30x50 feet, had an open fireplace, one window and two doors. As it was almost surrounded by briar patches and woods, it was called the "Briar Patch." The first seats used were made of split-logs. Many of the leading pioneer citizens received their training in this building.

When Virgil Bouldin was in the Legislature, he secured the passage of an Act which gave ten acres of land in the northwest corner of Section 16, township 10, range 7, for a site to erect a new two-story school building known as the Sand Mountain Institute. This school employed two teachers and had a dormitory for boarding students. Some of the teachers having charge of the school were Guy Kirby, Felix Robertson, J. C. Austin and J. H. Jernigan.

In 1924, a new seven-room house with a splendid auditorium was built. The school now has eight teachers and an enrollment of 325 students. Eleven grades are taught and it is hoped that another grade may be added in the near future with the school made an accredited High School. Jesse H. Wheeler has been principal for some years. The Delco light plant and other modern improvements make this an up-to-date school. The Parent-Teacher Association here has aided the school in its work. Wherever the Parent-Teacher Associations have been organized in the county, they have been a factor for good.

The first church was a Missionary Baptist, called the Briar Patch Church. Mrs. S. J. Bramblett was a charter member of this church. She was the mother of Y. B., J. B., and E. W. Bramblett. This church was organized in 1885. The Northern Methodists organized the next church, called Chaney's Chapel. Pleasant Hill, a Missionary Baptist, was the next.

The next church was called the Dutton Missionary Baptist. It was finished in 1924. About 1930, a beautiful church house was erected by the Church of Christ.

Some of the first settlers were Dr. Mason, who lived at the place where Joe Traylor now lives. He was an expert in raising potatoes. Uncle Mike McGinn, who lived at the place where Jim Golden now lives, was perhaps the oldest settler. He was an old man when he was killed by lightning in the year 1886. Marion and Jim Dutton owned a store at an early date. They owned the first gin. In the eighteen-nineties, Mr. James did the ginning and also ran a grist mill. The two gins at Dutton now do a good business.

Early settlers were J. S. Smalley, Tom Gullatt and J. W. Bailey. G. W. White and sons, E. G. and Clarence, have been closely associated with Dutton's growth. Rufus A. and Will Nichols were early settlers. They reared large families and their descendants are fine people as are many other here. W. E. McGriff came here about 1895. Leonard Thomas was a merchant and postmaster in old Dutton. There are many other settlers worthy of favorable notice.

### PISGAH

Pisgah is located midway between Dutton and Rosalie, and on the road from Old Bellefonte to Valley Head. This latter road was cut across the mountain at an early date. It is beautifully located for a town, and is surrounded by a fine class of citizens, who believe in education.

Cleve Estes was Postmaster in 1890. Following him in this office were Rorex, McGuffey, Griff Callahan, Matt Wann, Mrs. Matt Wann and Samuel Winger. The first voting place was Hawk's Springs, about one-fourth mile from Pisgah.

Pisgah's first church and school building was erected in 1869. It was above the Callahan Spring, where the Young house now stands. A Baptist Church was organized and named "Pisgah" by "Uncle" Sammie Rorex, in 1870. After ten years this building was burned and another one was erected on the present site of the Baptist Church. It was used as a school and church, too.

The first school was taught by John Ambrester and his sister, Mary Ann. When Mr. Ambrester died, J. J. Beeson finished the school term. Derrick, Armstrong, and Montrose followed him. Derrick and his assistant, John H. Roach, taught from 1876 to 1879. In 1881, J. J. Beeson moved to Pisgah and taught and preached until his death fifteen years later. A. H. Mathis taught one year, J. W. Simpson taught five years. In December 1900, Pisgah school district was created. The school was aided much by Mrs. I. E. Estes deeding ten acres of land for the purpose of a school campus. Through the influence of C. T. Starkley and Jesse Ambrester, the Baptist Home Mission Board established a school, naming it Beeson Academy, in honor of John J. Beeson, erected the building on the Mrs. Estes tract of land. In November 1920, this building was burned, and for two years the school was taught in the Baptist church and dormitory, with J. H. Jernigan as principal. In 1922, the present State building was erected on the site of Beeson Academy. The Vocational Agricultural department was added in 1923, and the school was made an accredited High School in 1925. A. L. Duncan was the first principal. A. E. Page was principal in 1926-27; A. B. Little, 1927-29; J. B. Cagle, 1929-32; and J. N. Howell since 1932.

#### ROSALIE

Rosalie is on Sand Mountain, about midway between Pisgah and Flat Rock. The stores are more



than a quarter of a mile apart. Garren's store, Elam Moore's residence and a few other houses are on the main Highway. Boman's store and gin are off the main highway a short distance. The splendid new school building is beautifully located and is a great asset to the progressive and thrifty farmers living in the community.

John William and David Richard Garren were pioneer settlers. They came from Ireland to Charleston, S. C., thence to Georgia, and to Sand Mountain.

### FLAT ROCK

Flat Rock is located midway of Sand Mountain going from east to west, and was named for the creek which has a flat rock bottom. The first Post Office was named Kosh. Miss Miria Hogue was Postmistress. When the school was started, the Post Office was moved to Flat Rock and the name was changed from Kosh to Flat Rock.

The Methodists have a church here with a membership of over one hundred. This church had charge of the school until about the first of 1930.

### *Flat Rock School*

Flat Rock School was started in the Fall of 1907, with 13 pupils, by Dr. Frank H. Gardner. He had been a missionary in Mexico. The first school was taught in an unoccupied building, enrolling 55 pupils, with none over the fifth grade. N. H. Price was the teacher for the first two years. He was succeeded by W. O. Rencher, who served as principal two years. Within five years the school had increased to 150 pupils, and had a campus of forty acres with a school building to care for the present needs. William Moore was the first pupil to receive a certificate, May 1912.

In 1914, Dr. Gardner resigned as Superintendent, and Miss Loe Dobbs, of Talladega, Alabama, was elected Superintendent of the school. The principals



of the school following W. O. Rencher were: Hosmer Price, I. T. Carlton, Robert H. Hartford, L. G. Alverson, G. W. Floyd, Wm. McDonold, L. G. Alverson, W. J. Stuckey, J. N. Esslinger, O. R. Henry, and Ira Pegues. The school was accredited in 1923 and used five teachers.

Some of the first settlers were: Charles Parton, Andy Hogue, Henegar Rogers, D. C. Burkhalter, Dan Austin, Carol Rainey, Jeff Pritchett, Jim Furgerson and Mr. Fields. The early merchants were Tom Hardy, Jim Furgerson, W. H. Kenimer, J. C. Austin, Davidson and Brother. The present merchants are A. J. Burel and J. B. Burkhalter.

#### BRYANT

Until long after the Civil War, all the northeastern part of Jackson County on Sand Mountain lay in unbroken forest. Here wolves howled, turkeys gobbled and deer loped over the narrow beaten paths through the pines.

Jamestown, the first settlement, was located about one-half mile east of Porter's Bluff, but now is no more than an old steam saw mill site. Among the earliest settlers were George Grant, Tom Peetit, A. H. Porter, J. W. Guilford and J. T. Frader. Prof. Guilford had a fine orchard, under the management of Mr. Fitch, who had come from the northwest; sold \$600 worth of fruit in 1871. These settlers had come here to escape the rigor of the northern winters, and to avoid the malaria of Southern valleys.

Miss Susan Z. Standish, sister of Mrs. Porter, formerly taught at Lookout Mountain Institute. She and Mrs. Chubbick, from New York City, opened up a small school in a room some few hundred yards from Mr. Porter's residence, and a music room in the Porter home where they taught vocal and instrumental music. They continued to teach for years,

even after the burning of the Porter home. Some of the outstanding citizens of this part of the county attended this school.

Bryant, the second settlement, which now stands about two miles south of where the Jamestown settlement once was, was named for W. H. Bryant, a well-to-do farmer and miller, who had come from Tennessee and homesteaded on the mountain. He, with his brother-in-law, Wm. Campbell, deeded land to the North Alabama M. E. Conference for a church site. A building was soon erected which was known as Bryant's Chapel. It was destroyed by the 1932 tornado.

Among the first settlers of Bryant were: Hiram Kersey, Richard Reece, William Reece, Joe, Potts, P. P. Shattuck, Abb Lively, J. T. Smith, and Colonel Ellis.

Dr. F. D. Pierce of Syracuse, N. Y., came to Bryant in 1883, and purchased about 2000 acres of land. Some years later he returned and organized "The North Alabama Coal Co.," which was operated for years. Mines were opened, railroads built and an incline made to the Tennessee River, over which the coal was sent to be loaded on barges for shipment. This gave work to many men, and the population of the mountain increased rapidly.

## CHAPTER XXXII.

### Political Changes and World War

It is the highest duty of the historian to faithfully record, without bias or any partiality, the facts as they occur.

Very little is known of the early party conflicts, except that Jackson County was largely controlled by the Jacksonian Democrats. However, there was a Whig sentiment among the largest planters, which grew quite strong at times. Jackson County was opposed to secession and voted so, but when it was carried in the State, the majority of the people of Jackson County joined the secession movement.

After the War, and the hard times that followed, there sprang up among the farming element, especially, more than one movement against the ruling authorities in both County and State. The first was the *Grange*. Lodges had been organized over the county in the early part of 1874. Sixteen of these lodges met at Scottsboro in July and organized a County Grange, or *Patrons of Husbandry*. Dr. Ira G. Wood was made chairman and a constitution was adopted. In this they proclaimed many good things, but the organization did not last but three or four years.

About this time the Greenback question became a party issue and Col. Wm. Lowe was elected to Congress because he favored it. From 1878 to 1886, the Independent movement often elected their men to county offices. Up to this time no party, primary nominations were made, and the regular Democrat was often defeated in the general election.

In 1887, the *Farmer's Alliance* was organized in

this county but it did not become as strong here as it did in adjoining counties.

In 1890, the Kolb-Jones fight for Governor started, which resulted, two years later, in the Democratic party split. The Independent wing led by Ruben F. Kolb, never made the headway here as in other counties around us. This led to the adoption of the 1901 State Constitution, which disfranchised the negro. Jackson County voted a large majority against the adoption of the Constitution, yet it was passed and became our organic law. Since then there have been no other great political movements, except the Presidential race in 1928, at which time the county went for the Republicans.

#### NEGRO IN POLITICS

After the negro was freed he became quite active in politics. Elder L. Lovelady, a colored preacher of Larkinsville, made three campaign speeches in this county for W. W. Garth, the Democratic candidate for Congressman in 1878. His opponent in this race was Wm. Lowe, an Independent Greenback candidate.

Morris, a negro, polled 552 votes in a race for Representative in the county. Ten candidates ran at this time. Negroes could vote until they lost the ballot in 1901, when the State Constitution was adopted.

#### THE AWAKENING, 1900-1917

Great improvement in living conditions of the people in the county was made at this period. The county was building pike roads. The people were beginning to see the need of screening their homes and of making war on the house fly and the mosquito. The importance of sanitation was becoming a question of interest. A public health campaign was begun in the county by the State Board of Health,

together with the County Board of Health, to bring before the people the cause, manner spread and prevention of the more important preventable diseases with which the people of Jackson County have to deal. The Board of Health gave the people an opportunity to get free examination and free treatment of hookworm and pellagra and to receive vaccination for typhoid, smallpox, diphtheria and malaria.

Dr. Hugh Boyd reported to the County Board of Health the first case of pellagra, in October 1909. The patient was living at Hollywood. This disease spread and became quite common for a while.

### *Good Roads*

The county was building its first pike roads in 1900. Automobiles made their first appearance here in 1909. This was the signal for the campaign for good roads. The work of building roads has not yet ceased.

### *Agricultural Education*

A farm demonstrator was employed, who aided in the adoption of better methods of farming. Charles Cargile was our first farm demonstrator. Boys' Corn and Pig Clubs were organized. The County Fair did much to aid the people in bettering farming and stock raising. The first County Fair was held at Scottsboro, from September 30 to October 3, 1914. Community Fairs were held at Bridgeport, Woodville and on Sand Mountain.

### *Soil Survey*

Through the efforts of Congressman Richardson, the U. S. Department made a survey of the soil in Jackson County in December, 1910.

### *Telephones*

About 1901, a telephone line was built from Bean's Station, Tennessee, to Paint Rock, a distance of forty miles. W. L. Moody built a telephone line in 1906, and by 1910, there were lines built to almost all parts of the county.



## THE WORLD WAR, 1917-18

The war among the nations of Europe, which started the last of August 1914, involved most of the civilized world before it ended in November 1918. The United States entered this war April 6, 1917. Many of our young men were sent to Europe. Every man between the ages of 18 and 45 years was registered to be drafted for military service.

Since the horrors of this war are so fresh in the writers memory and his strong aversion against war is so pronounced, the story may well be left to future historians to tell. The problems growing out of this war are still unsolved. These, too, for obvious reasons, are passed to later writers.

## CHAPTER XXXIII.

### Revolutionary Soldiers Who Lived In Jackson County

THE ACT of March 18, 1818, thirty-five years after the close of the Revolutionary War, was the first general act passed granting a pension for service, only. Those who could draw had to be in indigent circumstances and in need of assistance. There were some changes in the pension laws up until 1853, or seventy years after the war.

The following list of soldiers is taken from Report of the Alabama History Commission, *Vol. I.*

1. BAYLES, HEZEKIAH—Had lived in Madison County; was County Judge of Decatur County, resided at Woodville: private Virginia Militia; enrolled on January 24, 1833, under Act of Congress of June 7, 1832.—Revolutionary Pension Roll, in Vol. XIV, Sen. Doc. 514, 23rd Cong., 1st sess., 1833-34. (*See Bulletin No. 5, compiled by Thomas M. Owen, Director, 1911.*)

2. BODLY, JOHN—Aged 72, and a resident of Jackson county; private South Carolina State Troops and Militia; enrolled on January 22, 1834.

3. BRYANT, JOHN—Aged 85, resided in Jackson County, June 1, 1840—*Census of Pensioners, 1841, p. 148.*

4. BRYANT, ELIZABETH—Aged 71, resided in Jackson County, June 1, 1840, with H. M. Bryant.

5. CARGILL, THOMAS—Age not given; a resident of Jackson County; private in Cavalry, North Carolina Militia, enrolled on January 6, 1834. He resided in 1840 in the county.

6. CLARKE, LEWIS—Aged 71, and a resident of Jackson County; private, Virginia Militia, enrolled on November 4, 1833.

7. DUNCAN, JOHN—Aged 83; resided in Jackson County, June 1, 1840, with Robert Duncan.

8. FLETCHER, WILLIAM—Aged 76, and a resident of Jackson County; Captain, North Carolina Militia, enrolled January 2, 1834.

9. HAMMAN, PHIL. On Saturday, July 3, 1830, the Fifty-fifth Anniversary of American Independence was celebrated at Bellefonte, Jackson County, Alabama, at which, among other participants were several Revolutionary patriots. After the reading of the Declaration of Independence by Henry F. Scruggs and the delivery of an oration by Hon. Samuel B. Moore (He became Governor the next year), the company sat down to a plentiful dinner. After this, many patriotic toasts were drunk. Only one, and that because of the historic fact it evoked, is here reproduced: By L. James, Esq. "*Capt. Phil Hamman: The Savior of Greenbrier—tho' his history is but little known, his intrepidity and patriotism are not less worthy of our commendation.*" After drinking of this toast, the old soldier rose and said: "*He thanked the gentleman for introducing his name on an occasion where he had already been too much honored . . . .*" For nine years he had been in the wars of his country—during a greater part of which he had been engaged in the most dangerous parts of Indian service. He had suffered much. On one occasion he had been stripped by savage rapacity of every vestige of property he possessed, even the clothing of himself and family. One of his children fell victim to their cruelty. But not to dwell on the dangers he had endured, he would merely speak of the occasion so kindly alluded to in the toast. When stationed at Fort Randolph, at the mouth of the Big

Kanawaha, nine hundred Indians set off in a body to make an unexpected attack on the inhabitants of Greenbrier, Virginia. Two men were dispatched to apprise the people in that quarter of their approaching danger. In three days they returned, wounded and in despair. Others were sought for who would carry the express; none were found willing to engage in so dangerous and hopeless an undertaking. When he and one John Pryor (who was afterwards killed by the Indians) painted and dressed in Indian garb, set off, and in forty-eight hours traveled one hundred and sixty miles through the wilderness. They overtook the Indians within twelve miles of the white settlements, passed through their camps and gave timely warning to the people of their impending danger. Such preparations were made for security and defense as the occasion permitted. About daylight a violent attack was made on Fort Donley. The conflict was desperate, the door of the Fort was broken open. He stood in it and resisted the enemy, until it could be shut and fastened. The foe were repelled with great loss, and the country saved from savage barbarity. He said that, although he was old and poor, and had not received the compensation promised him by his country, yet he thanked God he was in peace and safety and could live without the aid of public or private charity. He then offered the following sentiment: "*Our Rulers—May they be just men, fearing God, and hating covetousness.*"—Southern Advocate, Huntsville, July 10, 1830.

10. JACKSON, JOHN—Aged 82, and a resident of Jackson County; private, South Carolina Continental Lines, enrolled on November 19, 1819, under Act of Congress of March 18, 1818, transferred from Lincoln County, Tennessee, from March 4, 1816.

11. JENKINS, WILLIAM—Aged 73, and a resident of Jackson County; Lieutenant and Captain, South Carolina State Troops.

12. JONES, JOHN—Age not given, a resident of Jackson County; private Alabama Militia, enrolled under Acts Military established on May 21, 1821.

13. KIRBY, ANDREW J.—Resident in Jackson County, June 1, 1840, with John McReynolds.

14. McCORMACK, JAS. R.—Aged 96, resided in Jackson County, June 1, 1840.

15. McCRAVY, JOHN—Aged 87, resided in Jackson County, June 1, 1840, with Thomas Coleman.

16. McCUTCHEN, JOHN—Aged 78, and a resident of Jackson County; private North Carolina Militia. *See the Southern Advocate, Huntsville, Jan. 27, 1835, for a history of his service.*

17. McDEARMON, THOMAS—Aged 82, resident of Jackson County; private South Carolina Militia.

18. McINALLY, JONAH—Aged 82, resided in Jackson County, June 1, 1840.

19. MATHEWS, BENJAMIN—Private Virginia Continental Line and Militia. He resided in Jackson County, June 1, 1840, Aged 78.

20. MORRIS, JOHN—Aged 76, and a resident of Jackson County; private South Carolina State Troops.

21. ROWAN, SAMUEL—Aged 70; private South Carolina Continental Line.

22. RUSSELL, THOMAS—Aged 74; private of Cavalry, North Carolina Continental Line, enrolled on April 22, 1834, under Act of Congress of June 7, 1832. He resided in the county and was first County Judge.

23. SAMPLES, JESSE—Aged 79, resided in Jackson County, June 1, 1840.

24. SMITH, JAMES—Aged 81, resided in Jackson County, June 1, 1840, with James P. Smith.

25. SMITH, REBECCA—June 1, 1840. *Census of Pensioners 1841, p. 148.*



26. TOWNSEL, JOSHUA—Aged 80; June 1, 1840.
27. TRIBBLE, ELIJAH—Aged 80; private in North Carolina Militia.
28. WOOD, JOHN—Aged 89; resided in Jackson County, June 1, 1840, with Thomas Campbell.—*Census of Pensioners 1841, p. 148.*

#### D. A. R. CHAPTER

The Tidence Lane Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, at Scottsboro, Alabama, was organized in 1927, with twelve charter members. Mrs. Louise Jacobs was the first Regent. Mrs. Pearl Murray, Mrs. Veda Spivey and Miss Will Maples have served as Past Regents. This Chapter has grown to twenty-six members and is doing a fine, patriotic service in the county. They have located three Revolutionary War soldiers' graves and two of the War of 1812. They marked the grave of John McCutchen, in Long Hollow, with fitting exercises, October 22, 1931.

On Sunday morning, October 21, 1934, at Maxwell, Alabama, eight miles from Stevenson, they dedicated the marble slab in memory of Annanias Allen, a soldier of the Revolution. The old house erected in 1833, by Mr. Allen, is still standing. He has many descendants now in the county.

## CHAPTER XXXIV

### Governor, Congressmen and County Officials

SAMUEL B. MOORE

The only Governor Jackson County furnished the State was Samuel B. Moore. He was born in Franklin County, Tennessee, in 1789. He came to Jackson County at an early date and settled two miles north-east of Woodville at the Spout Spring. He represented this county in the Legislature in 1823, and served three more terms before he was elected to the State Senate in 1828, being president of that body in 1931.

When Gov. Gabriel Moore resigned to serve in the U. S. Senate, Samuel Moore succeeded him in the executive office and held the office of Governor until December, 1831. After this service he moved to Pickens, Alabama, and served again in the State Senate from 1834 to 1838, serving as president of it in 1835.

He was Judge of County Court of Pickens County from 1835 to 1841. He was never married. He died in 1846, at Carrollton, and was buried there in an unmarked grave.

\* \* \* \* \*

### CONGRESSMEN

The following is a list of Congressmen who represented Jackson County in the U. S. Congress:

1. JOHN CROWELL, of Washington County, was elected to the lower house of Congress in the general

election of 1819, and was the first representative of the State in that body. Since Alabama had only one representative, he, of course, represented Jackson County. He had represented the Territory of Alabama in Congress.

2. WILLIAM KELLY, Huntsville. Resigned December 1, 1822. He was elected U. S. Senator.

3. GABRIEL MOORE, Huntsville. Elected to succeed William Kelly; took his seat December 22, 1822. Gabriel Moore served until March 3, 1831.

4. CLEMENT C. CLAY, Huntsville; March 4, 1831 to March 3, 1837.

5. REUBEN CHAPMAN, Somerville; March 4, 1837 to March 3, 1847.

6. WILLIAMSON R. W. COBB, Bellefonte; March 4, 1847 to January 30, 1861. W. R. W. Cobb was born in Rhea County, Tennessee, June 8, 1807; moved with his father to Alabama in 1809; attended the public schools; engaged in the mercantile pursuits. Elected a member of the State house of representatives in 1844 and 1845; elected as a Democrat to the Thirtieth and to six succeeding Congresses, and served from March 4, 1847 to January 30, 1861, when he withdrew. He was an unsuccessful candidate for election in 1861 to the Confederate States Congress; elected in 1863 to the Confederate Congress but was not allowed to take his seat. He was killed by the accidental discharge of his pistol, near Bellefonte, Jackson County, Alabama, November 1, 1864.—*From Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774-1927.*

Mr. Cobb was the only person Jackson County has ever sent to Congress. We had no representative in Congress during the Civil War.

7. JOHN B. CALLIS, Huntsville; July 21, 1868 to December 6, 1869.

8. PETER M. DOX, Huntsville; December 7, 1869 to March 3, 1873.

9. JOHN H. CALDWELL, Jackson; March 4, 1873 to March 3, 1877.

10. WILLIAM W. GARTH, Huntsville; March 4, 1877 to March 3, 1879.

11. WILLIAM M. LOWE, Huntsville; March 4, 1879. After a successful contest with Joe Wheeler he took his seat in his second term, June 3, 1882; died October 12, 1882. Joseph Wheeler served from March 4, 1881 to June 3, 1882. He was then elected, took his seat January 15, 1883 to March 3, 1883.

12. LUKE PRYOR, Athens; March 4, 1883 to March 3, 1885.

13. JOSEPH WHEELER, Wheeler; March 4, 1885 to April 20, 1900.

14. WILLIAM RICHARDSON, Huntsville; August 6, 1900 to March 31, 1914.

15. CHRISTOPHER C. HARRIS, Decatur; May 11, 1914 to March 3, 1915.

16. EDWARD B. ALMON, Tuscumbia; March 4, 1915 to 1933.

17. ARCHIBALD HILL CARMICHAEL, Tuscumbia; November 14, 1933.

## STATE SENATORS

The following is a list of State Senators:

	SERVED
William D. Gaines.....	1820-21
Robert McCarney .....	1822-26
Samuel B. Moore.....	1828-30
William Barclay .....	1831-35
Joseph P. Frazier.....	1837-38
Thomas William .....	1840-44
Joseph P. Frazier.....	1847-52
Thomas Wilson .....	1855-56
William A. Austin.....	1857-58
Francisco Rice .....	1861-64
John H. Norwood.....	1865-66
Chas. O. Whitney.....	1868-72
A. Snodgrass .....	1872-76
L. A. Dobbs.....	1876-79
Preston Brown .....	1880-83
Ira R. Foster .....	1884-85
J. L. Sheffield .....	1886-87
W. W. Haralson .....	1888-91
W. H. Bogart .....	1892-95
George J. Hall.....	1896-99
Floyd A. Bostick.....	1900-03
John A. Lusk.....	1907-08
Samuel Philips .....	1909-10
C. W. Brown .....	1911-14
John A. Lusk.....	1915
John B. Tally.....	1919
Joe Johnson .....	1923
John K. Thompson.....	1927
Claude Scruggs .....	1931
I. J. Browder .....	1935



## REPRESENTATIVES

The following is a list of Representatives in the State Legislature:

- 1821-22—William Barclay, Booker Smith, George W. Hopkins.
- 1822-23—William Barclay, Alexander Dulaney, Thos. Bailey.
- 1823-24—William Barclay, Samuel B. Moore, Daniel Payton.
- 1824-25—William D. Gaines, Samuel B. Moore, Daniel Payton.
- 1825-26—Philip H. Ambrester, Charles Lewis, Daniel Payton, John Baxter.
- 1826-27—William Barclay, Samuel B. Moore, William Lewis, Philip H. Ambrester.
- 1827-28—James Russell, Samuel B. Moore, William A. Davis, Daniel Price.
- 1828-29—James Russell, Stearns S. Wellborn, James Smith, Philip H. Ambrester.
- 1829-30—James Russell, William Barclay, James Smith.
- 1830-31—William Barclay, John Gilbreath, John B. Stephens, Daniel Price.
- 1931-32—Henry Norwood, John Gilbreath, John B. Stephens, Daniel Price.
- 1832 (called)—Henry Norwood, John Lusk, Benjamin B. Goodrich, Caleb B. Hudson.
- 1932-33—Henry Norwood, John Lusk, Benjamin B. Goodrich, Caleb B. Hudson.
- 1833-34—Henry Norwood, Edwin H. Webster, Sam'l McDavid, P. H. Ambrester.
- 1834-35—Robert Jones, John Gilbreath, James W. Young, Benjamin Snodgrass, Philip H. Ambrester, Wyatt Coffey.
- 1835-36—Henry Norwood, Joseph P. Frazier, John Berry, William King, Stephen Carter, Washington F. May.

- 1836-37—Robert T. Scott, Joseph P. Frazier, John Berry, William M. King, Benjamin Snodgrass, Samuel McDavid.
- 1837-38—Robert T. Scott, C. M. Cross, Alva Finley, William M. King, Thomas Wilson, Daniel Lucas.
- 1838-39—William Mason, James Williams, Alva Finley, F. A. Hancock, Thomas Wilson, McNairy Harris.
- 1839-40—Robt. T. Scott, James Williams, F. A. Hancock, Thomas Wilson.
- 1840-41—G. R. Griffin, E. W. Williams, Joshua Warren, James Smith.
- 1841-42—William L. Griffin, Philip H. Ambrester, William King, James Smith.
- 1842-43—Robert T. Scott, E. W. Williams, Alva Finley, James Munday.
- 1843-44—Benjamin Franks, James Williams, Joseph P. Frazier, F. A. Hancock.
- 1844-45—Robert T. Scott, James Williams, Moses Maples, Williamson R. W. Cobb.
- 1845-46—C. F. Williams, James Williams, W. R. W. Cobb.
- 1847-48—Robert T. Scott, James Williams, F. A. Hancock.
- 1849-50—Benjamin Franks, Thomas Wilson, J. C. Austin.
- 1851-52—Joshua Stephens, Thomas Wilson, J. C. Austin.
- 1853-54—Robert T. Scott, James M. Green, H. C. Cowan.
- 1855-56—W. R. Larkin, Moses Maples, F. A. Hancock.
- 1857-58—John B. Tally, J. S. Eustace, J. M. Cloud.
- 1859-60—P. G. Griffin, Jonathan Latham, J. M. Hudgins.
- 1861-62—John B. Tally, Jonathan Latham, T. T. Cotnam.
- 1863-64—P. Brown, J. W. Young, W. H. Robinson.

- 1865-66—W. J. B. Padgett, James Williams, Henry F. Smith.  
 1868-70—James W. Daniel, W. F. Hurt.  
 1870-71—W. F. Hurt, J. H. Cowan.  
 1872-73—Jesse E. Brown, J. H. Cowan.  
 1874-75—W. J. Higgins, W. M. Maples.  
 1876-77—Wm. McFarlane, Samuel Butler.  
 1878-79—G. D. Campbell, James Evans.  
 1880-81—W. H. Robinson, J. H. Vaught.  
 1882-83—S. H. Glover, C. W. Hunt.  
 1884-85—W. H. Bogart, I. P. Brown.  
 1886-87—P. P. St. Clair, W. M. Maples.  
 1888-89—W. H. Bogart, John French.  
 1890-91—W. H. Clanton, T. B. Parks.  
 1892-93—S. W. Frazier, J. H. Roach.  
 1894-95—W. M. Maples, J. H. Roach.  
 1896-97—P. B. Timberlake, Virgil Bouldin.  
 1898-99—Milo Moody, Calvin M. Rousseau.  
 1900-01—J. R. Johnson, Geo. W. Bulman.  
 1903—W. H. Bogart, Samuel W. Frazier.  
 1907—James Armstrong, James S. Benson.  
 1911—J. T. Brewer, W. J. Martin.  
 1915—C. W. Brown, P. H. Whorton.  
 1919—J. C. Austin, P. H. Whorton.  
 1923—Jno. K. Thompson, Capt. Jno. M. Snodgrass.  
 1927—L. H. Hughes, Ira Pigues.  
 1931—John Snodgrass, John H. O'Neal.  
 1935—A. D. Kirby, John H. O'Neal.

\* \* \* \* \*

## JACKSON COUNTY OFFICIALS

### PROBATE JUDGES

The following list of Officers of Jackson County are taken from the Civil Registers as kept in the Archives and History Department in Montgomery.

We had no Probate Judge from the beginning until the year 1850, this office being known as the Judge County Court.

(1) Our first Judge County Court was James Russell; date of his commission was April 12, 1820. His term expired January 1, 1823.

(2) The second Judge of County Court was Tobt. C. Hawkins; date of commission, January 4, 1823, resigned November 17, 1824.

(3) Samuel B. Moore, Judge County Court, Nov. 23, 1824 to Nov. 27, 1826.

(4) Wm. S. Compton, Judge County Court, Nov. 27, 1826.

(5) Thompson M. Rutor, Judge County Court, January 2, 1839.

(6) James M. Green, Judge County Court, March 21, 1845.

(7) Jas. M. Green, Judge County Court, January 30, 1850, was appointed to expire first Monday in May, 1850.

The foregoing Judges were "elected by joint vote of both houses of the General Assembly." (See Act passed June 14, 1821.

(8) Joseph G. Dixon, Judge Probate Court, May 5, 1850. Elected by the people.

(9) Joseph G. Dixon, Judge Probate, May 22, 1851.

(10) Hugh C. Cowan, Judge Probate, July 3, 1856. He served only seven days and resigned.

(11) John H. Norwood, Judge Probate, July 10, 1856 (Appointed).

(12) John H. Norwood, Judge Probate, July 26, 1857 (Elected). He served until March 1861, and resigned to enter the Confederate Army.

(13) James M. Huggins, Probate Judge, January 11, 1862 (Appointed).

(14) Milton P. Brown, Probate Judge, May 5, 1862.

(15) L. C. Coulson, Probate Judge, Aug. 7, 1865.

(16) David Tate, Probate Judge, July 6, 1868.

(17) Nelson Kyle, Probate Judge, Nov. 13, 1874.

(18) John B. Talley, Probate Judge, Sept. 9, 1880.

(19) John H. Norwood, Probate Judge, Oct. 25, 1886 (Died in office).

(20) J. P. Harris, Probate Judge, Nov. 30, 1891 (Appointed).

(21) Wm. B. Bridges, Probate Judge, 1892 (Elected).

(22) Chas. L. Cargile, Probate Judge, Nov. 3, 1898 (Elected).

(23) W. W. McCutchen, Probate Judge, 1904 (Elected).

(24) J. J. Williams, Probate Judge, 1909 (Appointed).

(25) Jas. B. Hackworth, Probate Judge, 1910 (Elected).

(26) A. H. Moody, Probate Judge, 1916 (Elected).

(27) W. H. Bogart, Probate Judge, 1922 (Elected).

(28) J. M. Money, Probate Judge, 1928 (Elected).

(29) Henry McAnelly, Probate Judge, 1934 (Elected).

#### COUNTY COURT CLERKS

The following is a list of the County Court Clerks:

- (1) Stephen Carter, commissioned April 12, 1820.
- (2) Stephen Carter, August 23, 1824.
- (3) Richard B. Clayton, September 9, 1828.
- (4) Moses Jones, August 29, 1836.
- (5) Moses Jones, August 14, 1840.

#### CLERKS OF CIRCUIT COURT

The following is a list of Circuit Court Clerks:

- (1) Geo. W. Higgins, commission April 12, 1820.
- (2) Geo. W. Higgins, Aug. 23, 1824.
- (3) Thos. Scruggs, Sept. 9, 1828.
- (4) George Swink, Sept. 9, 1834.
- (5) John B. Cook, Nov. 28, 1846.
- (6) John B. Cook, Aug. 22, 1850.
- (7) Leroy H. Brewer, Aug. 16, 1858.
- (8) Leroy H. Brewer, Aug. 15, 1862.
- (9) Bailey Bruce, Aug. 7, 1865 (Resigned).



- (10) Leroy H. Brewer, Aug. 15, 1865.
- (11) E. P. Cowart, Aug. 10, 1868.
- (12) A. H. Caperton, Nov. 14, 1874 to March 15, 1879. Joe H. Gregory appointed Circuit Court Clerk by Governor Cobb, to fill out vacant term made by death of A. H. Caperton. Gregory had served as deputy clerk for several years; March 1879.
- (13) A. J. Huggins, Aug. 17, 1880.
- (14) L. W. Willis, elected in August, commission November 6, 1886.
- (15) James Thompson, commission 1892.  
Frank D. Hurt, commission 1898.  
James M. Swaim, commission 1904.  
Walker W. McCutchen, commission 1910.  
George Blackwell, commission 1922.  
James M. Swaim, commission 1923.  
Charles W. Wann, commission 1929.  
Jack E. Reid, commission 1935.

## SHERIFFS OF JACKSON COUNTY

The following is a list of the Sheriffs of Jackson County:

- (1) David Griffith, commission April 12, 1820 (Resigned).
- (2) David Coulfield, commission July 19, 1822 (Resigned August 6, 1822).
- (3) Silas Parsons, August 31, 1822 (Resigned October 23, 1822).
- (4) John O. Burton, October 23, 1822. Term expired and was appointed by the Governor.
- (5) John O. Burton, August 15, 1825.
- (6) Henry Norwood, August 13, 1831.
- (7) Daniel Lucas, August 13, 1831.

The writer is unable to explain the record of two Sheriffs commissioned on the same date. Owen, Vol. 4, page 1288, says, "Henry Norwood, at the time of his death, was both Sheriff and Major General of State Militia. He represented his county in the Leg-

islature at the session of 1831, 1832, 1833 and 1835."

- (8) Alexander Riddle, Sept. 15, 1834.
- (9) John R. Coffey, Aug. 14, 1840.
- (10) John F. Cowan, Oct. 28, 1846.
- (11) John Snodgrass, Aug. 23, 1849.
- (12) John H. Norwood, Aug. 25, 1852.
- (13) J. J. Sublett, Sept. 3, 1855.
- (14) James C. Austin, Aug. 16, 1858.
- (15) Stephen E. Kennamer, 1861. The war prevented him from serving his full term.
- (16) Wm. R. Hill, October 6, 1865.
- (17) J. J. Roberts, August 10, 1868.
- (18) Wm. I. Kirk, April 24, 1869.
- (19) Jas. R. Harris, November 7, 1871.
- (20) S. H. McMahan, November 25, 1874.
- (21) W. M. Grider, October 23, 1877.
- (22) A. W. Skelton, August 17, 1880 (Died October 9, 1882).
- (23) Thos. J. Robinson, Oct. 16, 1882 (Appointed).
- (24) W. H. Dicus, August 1884.
- (25) J. L. Gentry, August 1888.
- (26) Thomas J. Robinson, 1892.
- (27) D. A. Thomas, 1896 (Died May 18, 1900).
- (28) G. B. Campbell, appointed May 22, 1900.
- (29) D. O. Austin, 1900 (Served 6 years).
- (30) John L. Staples, 1906.
- (31) R. O. Starkey, 1910.
- (32) D. O. Austin, 1914.
- (33) Mack Thomas, January 1919-23.
- (34) Henry Jones, 1923-27.
- (35) Mack Thomas, 1927-31.
- (36) Matt Wann, 1931-32 (1½ years).
- (37) T. W. McBride (appointed), 1932-35 (Served 2½ years).
- (38) Mack Thomas, began serving Jan. 14, 1935.

## TAX ASSESSORS

The following is a list of Tax Assessors of Jackson County:

- (1) Miller Isbell, commission Aug. 10, 1868.
- (2) S. H. McMahan, commission, Jan. 2, 1872.
- (3) T. T. Foster, commission Nov. 18, 1874.
- (4) John J. Beeson, commission Aug. 22, 1877.
- (5) James M. Gullatt, commission Jan. 21, 1881.
- (6) D. I. Durham, elected August 1884.
- (7) Michael E. Looney, elected August 1888.
- (8) Chas. L. Cargile, elected August 1892.
- (9) Jno. W. Downey, served Sept. 1, 1897-1901.
- (10) Lat M. Prince, 1901-05.
- (11) W. A. J. Wann, 1905-09.
- (12) A. B. Collins, 1909-13.
- (13) T. J. Wimberly, 1913-17.
- (14) C. W. C. Hall (Resigned), 1917-19.
- (15) W. J. Looney (Appointed), 1919-21.
- (16) A. J. Grider, 1921-27.
- (17) H. I. Irwin, 1927-31.
- (18) John P. Cunningham, 1931-35.
- (19) John Graham, 1935.

## TAX COLLECTORS

The following is a list of Tax Collectors of Jackson County:

- (1) T. T. Wright, commission Aug. 19, 1868.
- (2) J. R. King, commission Jan. 2, 1872.
- (3) J. M. Gullatt (Served 6 years), Nov. 1874.
- (4) John R. Bostick, August 1880.
- (5) E. W. Garland, elected August 1884.
- (6) James P. Barclay, 1888.
- (7) William Sterne, 1893-97.
- (8) W. H. Woodall, 1897-01.
- (9) Jas. A. Ridley, 1901-05.
- (10) W. D. Rorex, 1905-09.
- (11) A. G. Gentry, 1909-13.
- (12) J. M. Money, 1913-17.

- (13) Henry L. Bulman, 1917-21.
- (14) W. H. Gullatt, 1921-27.
- (15) Miss Leola Matthews, 1927-31.
- (16) J. D. Starkey, 1931-35.
- (17) Mrs. M. L. Wann, 1935.

### COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS OF EDUCATION

(1) James Cox was appointed the first County Superintendent in 1856, and was again appointed in 1858. There were no schools during the Civil War.

(2) Jesse W. Isbell became the next person to serve in this office. He began service January 1, 1869. Jackson County got no State school money for the years 1866 and 1867, until late in 1869.

(3) John J. Beeson was elected County Superintendent in March 1871.

(4) John S. Collins was elected in November 1874.

(5) Ira G. Wood was appointed in 1878.

(6) M. P. Brown was appointed November 1, 1879.

(7) Judge Ryan served a while as County Superintendent. He resigned on account of ill health. He had held the office of State Superintendent a few months.

(8) H. H. Horton was appointed in December 1883, and was elected in August 1884.

(9) J. R. Austill was elected in August 1886.

(10) W. G. Montrose was elected in August 1888.

(11) C. W. Brown was appointed February 1889.

(12) James M. Thompson was elected 1890.

(13) David I. Durham was elected 1892.

(14) Charles L. Hackworth was elected 1894.

(15) W. S. Bridges was elected 1900.

(16) Wm. T. Cooper was elected 1904.

(17) C. S. Brewton served from 1908 to 1916.

(18) Jesse H. Wheeler served from 1916 to 1929.

(19) J. F. Hodges began serving July 1, 1929.

## A LIST OF COUNTY TREASURERS:

1872, Nelson Kyle	1897, A. H. Coffey
1874, David B. McCord	1900, J. Alex Gayle
1888, J. M. Dicus	1904, J. W. Ashmore
1893, John J. Beeson	1909, John M. Graham
1912, Dallas Brown	

(The office was abolished in 1915.)

## REGISTERS IN CHANCERY:

Patrick Ragland served until elected Secretary of State, and resigned.

Jasper J. Jones was appointed in November 1873. He was followed by W. L. Martin, January 1, 1879. Mr. Martin resigned in January 1886. Nelson Kyle, ex-Probate Judge, was appointed. He died in September 1886. He was followed by C. W. Brown, who resigned, and James A. Kyle was appointed in the Spring of 1887.

Benjamin F. Shook was appointed in 1918, by Judge W. W. Haralson. He died March 22, 1935.

D. F. Fennel was appointed Register, March 26, 1935.

## COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

1868—Rice A. Coffey, Wm. Stockton, Thomas J. Mitchell and Alex Reed.

1872—Rice A. Coffey, Thos. J. Scruggs, Moses Jones and W. C. McMaples. In July 1873, Moses Jones died; C. C. Cobb was appointed.

1874—Rice A. Coffey, Wilson Davis, James Jordan, Sr., and Moses Maples.

1878—C. C. Spiller, E. R. Inglish, James Jordan, Sr., and Preston Brown.

1880—The Legislature passed an Act to lay off the county into four Districts: (1) Capt. C. C. Spiller, (2) S. W. Shipp, (3) W. D. Nicholson, (4) George R. Hodges.



- 1884—(2) Elisha Stogsdill, (3) Claiborne Evans, (1) D. T. Crownover, (4) David A. Thomas; (3) D. M. Cowley was appointed November 1885.
- 1888—N. B. Burch, A. A. Gay, D. T. Rousseau, John C. Stoner.
- 1892—(1) A. J. Hogue, (2) S. W. Shipp, (3) D. M. Cowley, (4) W. J. Swaim.
- 1896—(1) J. M. Walker, (2) S. R. Corn, (3) D. M. Cowley, (4) J. S. Riddle.
- 1900—(1) J. M. Walker, (2) E. Stogsdill, (3) J. M. Morgan, (4) W. H. Stovall.
- 1903—(3) E. B. Hicks.
- 1904—(1) D. L. G. Wilson, (2) Milton Roach, (3) J. P. McClendon, (4) R. C. Horton.
- 1908—(1) A. C. Loyd, (2) J. P. Lewellen, (3) W. E. Batey, (4) F. L. Rousseau.
- 1912—(1) J. M. McNeely, (2) I. E. Sanders, (3) W. B. Wheeler, (4) W. E. Elkins.
- 1916—(1) I. W. Wimberly, (2) J. H. Jernigan, (3) R. S. Skelton, (4) G. W. Green.
- 1920—(1) I. W. Wimberly, (2) Claude T. Bobo, (3) R. S. Skelton, (4) W. T. Eustace.
- 1924—(1) W. H. Cox, (2) Raymond Bradford, (3) R. S. Skelton, (4) W. W. Trice.
- 1928—(1) A. J. Arendale, (2) Raymond Bradford, (3) Marvin H. Campbell, (4) W. W. Trice.
- 1932—(1) W. T. Badger, (2) C. W. Lovelady, (3) J. F. Bulman (deceased), W. C. Selby, (4) H. G. Graham.













